

# gay

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# Woman challenges Calif. testing law

*Prostitutes, prisoners, and anyone else who comes in contact with cops or firefighters targeted by recently-enacted ballot measure*

By Chris Bull

SAN FRANCISCO — A woman who bit a deputy sheriff is challenging the San Francisco Sheriff's Department's attempt to force her to be tested for HIV antibodies. The challenge is the first court battle over a new California law (known as Proposition 96) that allows mandatory HIV antibody testing of anyone who bites, scratches or spits on a police officer or firefighter. Municipal Court Judge Perker Meeks issued a temporary restraining order March 23 preventing the Sheriff's Department from carrying out the testing and granted Johnetta Williams the right to challenge the law on the grounds that a mandatory HIV antibody test violates the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures.

Johnson, 37, who allegedly drew blood from the hand of Deputy Sheriff Evelyn Parkell, was being forcibly removed from juvenile court after a custody hearing involving her children when she reportedly bit the officer. Parkell, fearing she had contracted HIV from the bite, later requested Johnson be tested for HIV antibodies.

Judge Meeks expressed concern that test

results would not remain confidential. "It is common knowledge that people suffering from certain diseases face discrimination," he said. "[Parkell and Johnson] could be exposed to ostracism if [they] are possibly contaminated."

Jim Harrigan, legal counsel to San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey, told *GCN* that the department "doesn't want to have to do this, but we are compelled by law, just as we are compelled by law to evict people from buildings. We have no choice." Ironically, said Harrigan, Hennessey was the only high ranking police official in the state to campaign against Proposition 96 when it was put before California voters last November 9. He pointed out that Parkell has the right, under the law, to request an HIV antibody test from Johnson. Parkell is not required to explain why she thinks Johnson might be HIV antibody-positive.

Proposition 96, which also requires that prison correctional staff be notified if a prisoner is HIV antibody positive or has AIDS, was passed by nearly a two-to-one

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# Charges filed against Texas judge

*Hampton faces action by state Supreme Court*

By Chris Bull

DALLAS, Texas — The Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct March 5 filed formal charges against Jack Hampton, a judge who created a storm of protest in December when he reduced the sentence of the killer of two men because the men were "queer." (See *GCN*, Dec. 25, 1988).

The commission asked the Texas Supreme Court to appoint a special judge to conduct hearings on possible disciplinary action against Hampton.

Dallas lesbian and gay activists praised the decision. "I'm very encouraged by the move," said David Bryan, legal director of the Texas Human Rights Foundation. "The commission obviously has taken our charges very seriously. This puts further pressure on Judge Hampton to resign." Last year, the commission took disciplinary action in only one of over 500 cases brought before the commission. "Of all the options, the commission took the most serious action it could have. But it didn't have too much choice. They received over 1800 pieces of mail about the judge," said Bryan.

During an interview with the *Dallas Times Herald* on Dec. 23, Hampton admitted that he would have given 19-year-old Richard Bednarski life in prison for the execution-style murder of Tommy Lee Trimble and John Lloyd Griffin had the victims been heterosexual. "I don't care for queers cruising the streets. I've got a teen-age boy.... I

put prostitutes and gays at about the same level. If these boys had picked up two prostitutes and taken them to the woods and killed them, I'd consider that a similar case. I'd be hard put to give somebody life for killing a prostitute." Hampton sentenced Bednarski to 30 years in prison. He will be eligible for parole in 10 years.

Bednarski and several friends from the suburbs drove into Houston to "pester homosexuals." After picking up Griffin and Trimble in his car, Bednarski drove to a secluded park and ordered the men to undress. When they refused, Bednarski shot the two men. Friends of Bednarski testified that he later bragged about the killings, explaining that he stuck the gun in Trimble's mouth before shooting him.

After Hampton's anti-gay and anti-prostitute remarks, hundreds of activists staged a demonstration outside the Dallas City Hall demanding Hampton's resignation. Bednarski's sentence and Hampton's remarks were condemned by a number of prominent Texas politicians. Hampton, who did not return phone calls from *GCN*, has 15 days to resign or challenge the charges against him.

The commission's action instigates a formal review process. First a Supreme Court-appointed judge will review the charges against Hampton. If the judge recommends

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## Saliendo del closet en Lima

*An interview with Peruvian lesbian Rebeca Sevilla*

Marian Bakker

# Living Center underway for Boston PWA community

*Additional funding and site sought for alternative service and social center*

By Judy Harris

BOSTON — Imagine a place where you can go to receive a deep-muscle body massage, relax with friends over dinner, and maybe even take in a movie — all free of charge. That's the kind of place founders of the Boston Living Center (BLC) envision opening in June. The BLC proposes to offer "a warm, supportive, homey environment for all people living with AIDS, ARC, HIV infection — a place to rest and focus on LIFE."

The New England NAMES Project announced March 23 its grant of \$20,000 to BLC — \$5000 in seed money and \$15,000 as a "challenge matching grant." BLC founders said they are confident in their fundraising capabilities, and that they are excited to see their ideas for a non-residential "living" center for people with AIDS, ARC, and HIV infection begin to materialize.

Jim McEvoy, a member of Boston's People With AIDS (PWA) Coalition and the BLC Interim Planning Board, explained that accessible space in which to socialize is one of the most important unmet needs of PWAs. He pointed out that money is being directed to medical research on AIDS and that increasing numbers of hospices are being funded. But meanwhile, said McEvoy, people who are living longer with AIDS often lose their jobs and lovers, leaving them with few resources and a lot of unstructured, often lonely, time.

"PWAs need to have a place where they can congregate among themselves," said McEvoy. He explained that he and other members of the BLC's Interim Planning Board were aware of the importance of the weekly PWA dinners co-sponsored by the PWA Coalition and Boston's AIDS Action

Committee (AAC). But aside from the weekly dinner, according to McEvoy, there is virtually no place for PWAs in Boston to be together.

McEvoy likened his idea of the Center to the Northern Lights Alternative AIDS Mastery Workshop of which he is the Boston area sponsor. To McEvoy, a social space for PWAs, like his workshop, "challenges the notion that AIDS is a death sentence. It gets people to come out of themselves when they're shut down." McEvoy stressed that the Center will be a "homey environment" — one that is more accessible to PWAs than service programs set in clinical environments. In fact, McEvoy said he expects the Center to be especially popular as an alternative to other AIDS service organizations that he said are "run like corporations within a sterile environment."

Fred Cusati, a member of the BLC's Interim Planning Board, also emphasized the "homey" aspect of the Center. "It's important to have peer counseling as opposed to being a client in a clinical environment."

Cusati, who was former treasurer for the New England NAMES Project, described his shift from working with the NAMES Project to the Living Center as an "evolution born out of frustration." Cusati explained that he saw the therapeutic effect the Quilt could provide to survivors of people who die from AIDS, but that he felt a need to change his focus to providing direct services for people living with AIDS. "The Quilt is very important," said Cusati. "It was a great experience, but there's also a need to help the living."

The Center will be run by PWAs and staff. Continued on page 2

## Quote of the week

"People who come to this university are mainly from rural areas and small towns. So some are homophobic because they are ignorant of gay and lesbian issues. And it takes them awhile to realize we are not just a bunch of fags and dykes who want to take over the world."

— Ivan Vincent, student at the California State University at Fresno, as quoted in the San Jose Mercury News. Vincent's comments came after about 15 people dressed in Ku Klux Klan-style robes drove around the campus in trucks with signs saying "Queers Go Home." The target of the harassment was a group of 130 gay and lesbian students from various schools in the West who had come to Fresno to participate in the annual regional conference of lesbian and gay student organizations. The Fresno campus was chosen as the site for the conference in part to respond to homophobic attacks there. Last year vandals burned down the lesbian and gay student's information booth.

## Lesbian co-parent can seek custody

LOS ANGELES — A lesbian seeking joint custody of the child her ex-lover gave birth to got support for her case from a judge here March 16. Superior Court Commissioner James Endman ruled that Terri Sabol, who had been a co-parent of the child and provided financial support, was entitled to seek custody, according to the *Montrose Voice*. A hearing is scheduled for March 30 to decide whether the case will go to trial.

"This case is an inspiration to persons who have been in same-sex relationships and who would like to have access to courts to protect their rights," said Gloria Allred, Sabol's attorney.

According to the account in the *Montrose Voice*, Sabol's partner was inseminated in 1986 after the couple decided to have a child. The sperm was donated by a relative of Sabol's, and the baby was given Sabol's name. The couple split in July 1988 after which Sabol continued to visit and support the child. In October 1988 Sabol's ex-lover ended the visits.

□ Jennie McKnight

## Transsexual prisoner settles suit

DES MOINES, Iowa — A transsexual prisoner in the Iowa Penitentiary has settled a lawsuit filed in 1984 charging the Iowa Department of Corrections with being "deliberately indifferent to [her] gender dysphoria (transsexualism)," according to the magazine *Tapestry*. The prisoner, known as Thomas White and Tammy Lynn White, settled the suit after a St. Louis, Mo., appeals court reversed a June 1988 decision in White's favor.

According to *Tapestry*, the tentative settlement provides that: White is bona fide transsexual; transsexualism is a serious medical condition; and the medical staff at the prison will provide White with care and treatment consistent with the recommendations of the court-appointed expert who diagnosed White.

The article also reported that White said she committed the second-degree robbery that led to her incarceration to get money for medical treatment for her condition.

□ Jennie McKnight

## HIV transmission = jail in Wisconsin?

MADISON, Wis. — State Senator Marvin Roselli has introduced legislation that would impose criminal penalties up to life imprisonment for people who transmit HIV, a virus thought by many to be a cause of AIDS. The bill, Senate Bill 26, calls for: up to 10 years imprisonment for exposing someone to HIV; 20 years for "knowingly" transmitting the virus; and up to life imprisonment if the transmission "contributes to the death of another," according to *The Wisconsin Light*.

Roselli was quoted as saying the bill is

"an attempt to stop the lunatics on the fringe of society who have this dreadful disease."

State Rep. David Clarenbach, who opposes the bill, told the *Light*, "This law, if passed, would make any person infected with the HIV virus vulnerable to a criminal charge. This bill could encourage a witch hunt against the gay community."

The bill has 13 sponsors in both houses of the Wisconsin legislature, and is currently before the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

□ Jennie McKnight

## Lesbian seeks INS precedent

BOSTON — An openly lesbian political refugee from the Soviet Union is attempting to set a legal precedent in her bid to become a U.S. citizen. Masha Gessen, editor of a weekly gay/lesbian magazine, *Next*, is challenging the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) policy of excluding lesbians and gay men from citizenship in accordance with the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act.

Gessen said she is willing to seek citizenship because her status as a Soviet Jew who has been granted political asylum makes it unlikely that she would be deported if she is denied citizenship. "Because very few immigrants are in a position that is as safe as mine, I feel an obligation to at least try to set legal precedent that would allow gay people to become American citizens," said Gessen. Gessen, whose family left the Soviet Union in 1981, was eligible to apply for citizenship in 1986 after she had lived in the U.S. for five years. But she put off her application for citizenship for three years in hopes that Rep. Barney Frank's (D-Mass.) work on immigration reform would effectively eliminate INS restrictions regarding gay and lesbian immigrants.

Contributions to help defray Gessen's legal expenses may be sent to: Masha Gessen Legal Fund, 30 Cedar St., Roxbury, MA 02119.

□ Jennie McKnight

## Eastern bis to meet

BOSTON — The East Coast Bisexual Network will hold its fifth annual conference May 12-14 at Harvard University. The conference will include workshops and other activities. Workshop topics include: Bisexuality 101, Advanced Bisexuality, AIDS and Healing, Being Out at Work, From Lesbian to Bisexual, Massage, Mother/Daughter Relations, Radical Sexuality, Sexual Abuse, Disability and Bisexuality, Bi Issues and Communities of Color.

According to the organizers of the conference, "The purpose of this conference is to provide a safe and celebratory context in which bisexuals, our allies and our friends can reaffirm the strength of the bisexual community and our identities as bisexual women and men. We choose to focus on culture, community and coalition-building to highlight the diversity of our culture and the uniqueness of the bisexual vision for human relationships, and to strengthen our common bonds in the struggle for civil rights."

For registration information write to: ECBN, P.O. Box 1645, Cambridge, MA 02138; or call (617) BIS-MOVE.

□ Jennie McKnight

## People needed to give away money

BOSTON — The New England NAMES Project is seeking people who are HIV antibody positive, or who have AIDS or ARC, and others to form a funding board to distribute \$25,000 raised by the NAMES Project to provide AIDS services in Boston. According to the NAMES Project, the NAMES Fund Board could become the first of its kind to have a majority of HIV antibody-positive members.

"We wanted those people who needed the money the most to be on the board handing out the bucks," said Bill Docker of the NAMES Project. "Ideally the board will have a majority of people who are HIV positive, but no less than a third." Docker added that the 13-member board will reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of communities affected by AIDS.

The \$25,000 allocated specifically for AIDS services in Boston represents a portion of the monies raised during the NAMES Project's display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in New England last summer. According to Docker, \$10,000 was earmarked for the New England NAMES Project and \$20,000 was awarded to the recently formed Boston-based Community Research Initiative of New England. All proceeds received from NAMES Project merchandise — \$50,000 raised from mostly t-shirt and poster sales — was allotted to the national organization.

Already over \$75,000 has been awarded to AIDS service organizations throughout New England, including Dimmock Community Health Center and the AIDS Action Committee in Boston. The \$25,000 now available is intended for community-based, non-profit organizations offering "direct service to people with HIV infection and their immediate families and loved ones" that ordinarily would not be funded elsewhere.

Those interested in serving as funding-board members should send letters of intent to: NAMES Fund for AIDS Services, 41 Spring Park Avenue, Suite 100, Boston, MA 02130. The deadline for applications is April 17.

□ Judy Harris

## Lesbian and gay aging course offered

SAN FRANCISCO — The Gerontology program of San Francisco State University is offering a class about lesbian and gay aging. Taught by Monika Kehoe, the course will look at literature about aging gay men and lesbians as well as examine social attitudes toward sexual deviance. The course costs \$85 and begins April 1. For more information, call (415) 338-1684.

□ Jennie McKnight

## Goodies for Purim

BOSTON — Gift boxes containing fruit, candy and *hamentashen* — three-cornered pastries traditionally eaten on the Jewish holiday of Purim — were distributed at four local nursing homes by members of *Am Tikva*, the Greater Boston Jewish gay/lesbian congregation. Since Purim, the Festival of Lots, fell on Monday night this year, the visits were made on Sunday afternoon, March 19. Members of the group visited over 110 residents in the four homes. Although a special effort was made to reach all the Jewish residents, non-Jewish residents were also included in the singing, story-telling and gift-giving.

This is the second year *Am Tikva* has made these visits, rather than holding the traditional costume party for the holiday.

□ Jan R. Fielding

## Cross dresser court-martialled

PUGET SOUND, Wash. — A cross dresser was court-martialed by the Navy for "conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline and of a nature to bring discredit upon the Armed Forces," according to *The Objector*, a military information newsletter.

Karen Davis, previously known as Charles W. Marks, sought assistance from several Navy psychiatrists, but was denied counseling. After discovering transsexual therapy groups near the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard where he was stationed, he began attending the meetings dressed in women's clothes. Being seen several times near the Shipyard in women's clothes led to the court-martial.

□ Jennie McKnight

## Center

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fed by volunteers offering a variety of services — including nutritional counseling, spiritual services, body-oriented therapies, psychological services, and child care. Cusati, who is not a PWA, said that he will pull away from the project once it is up and running. Not only does Cusati feel the Center should be "for PWAs by PWAs," but he also said the Board of Directors and other Center participants "will represent the broad diversity of communities in Boston

affected by AIDS, not just the gay community." McEvoy added, "It will be truly a PWA living center ... not just for a few people but for everyone."

Many people contacted by *GCN* said they have only recently become aware of plans for the Center, but that they were excited that new services will be available for PWAs.

"It sounded like a good idea to me ... there are not enough services for people with AIDS," said Nadine Beck, Coordinator of the Latino AIDS Hotline. Beck added, "However little the services for people with AIDS, there's only one-tenth of that available for Latino [PWAs]," and she said she hoped BLC planners ensure there are Latinos working at the Center.

D.E. Dale, a counseling psychologist who works with people who are HIV antibody positive at the adult medical ward and the substance abuse clinic at Dimmock Community Health Center, said of plans for the Center, "It's an excellent concept. We desperately need the services.... I see the need every day in the work I do."

AAC's Executive Director Larry Kessler told *GCN* he views the new Living Center as the beginning of a wave of change in AIDS service provision that will continue into the '90s. Kessler said the BLC fits into the "new models of service and education by which PWAs live with AIDS, so even the name is a step in a positive direction — 'the Living Center.' "

Although some in the Boston lesbian/gay community have expressed concern that a growing number of gay organizations may face precarious financial situations due to a limited pool of gay dollars, Kessler said, "I've always felt that we've only scratched the tip of the iceberg in terms of the funding community ... especially the gay community if you consider we're 100,000 strong in Boston."

McEvoy said he expects BLC will tap community resources that are different from those AAC and other AIDS service organizations have relied upon in the past. For their first major fundraising event BLC is planning to promote city-wide "satellite" dinners to be held May 20. The idea is that BLC supporters invite their friends to dinner and charge them a donation fee, much like larger scale, formal fundraising events. McEvoy brought the idea to the group from Rochester, New York where he says satellite dinners have been extremely successful in keeping Rochester's AIDS clinics funded.

BLC organizers also expect to minimize their expenses as the Center will be staffed completely by volunteers. Bringing several services to one location will also eliminate the need for PWAs to travel to different parts of Boston and neighboring suburbs for their various needs, according to planners.

The site for the Center has not yet been decided, although BLC planners are considering first-floor locations ranging from 1500 to 2000 square feet in the South End, Back Bay, the Fenway, and Jamaica Plain.

Those interested in donating time or money to the Boston Living Center can write P.O. Box 52, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215; or call (617) 734-6339. □

## Judge

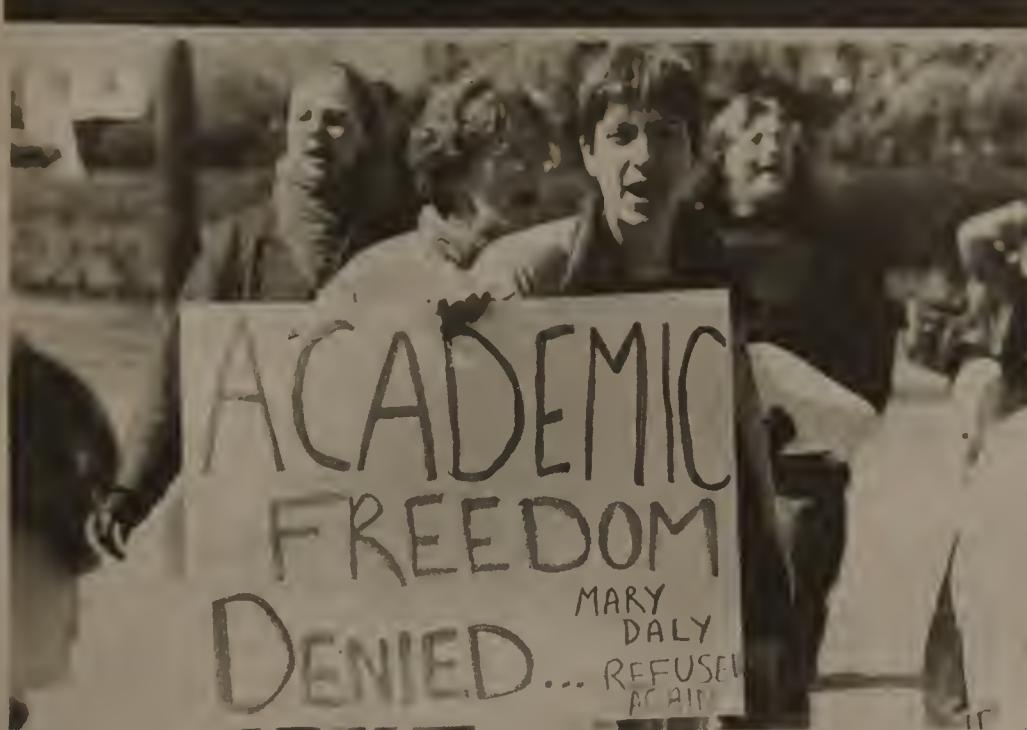
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that Hampton be fired or reprimanded the case will go back to the Supreme Court, which will then appoint a seven member tribunal composed of Texas appellate judges. If the tribunal recommends disciplinary action, Hampton will again have the right to appeal to the Texas Supreme Court for a final ruling on the case.

William Waybourne, president of the Dallas Gay Alliance, told *GCN* that the system is set up to make it almost impossible to remove judges from the bench. He said the best hope is that Hampton will resign rather than face the lengthy review process. Waybourne added that the whole process has benefited the lesbian and gay community by bringing homophobia on the part of the judiciary in Texas into the open.

"Even if Hampton is never removed from the bench, the commission's decision sends a clear message to other judges and elected officials that you can't get away with homophobic actions. The educational outreach has been terrific," said Bryan.

□ filed from Boston



## AIDS 'bill of rights' spurned by activists

Local and national legislative agenda pushed by the New Alliance Party called unnecessary and divisive

By Chris Bull

SAN FRANCISCO — In the midst of growing criticism from lesbian and gay activists for its divisive organizing tactics, the New Alliance Party (NAP) March 10 announced a national campaign to introduce its AIDS bill of rights in Congress, state legislatures and city councils across the country.

Although activists agree that the AIDS bill of rights, which was first introduced in the New York City Council two years ago, looks good on paper, they expressed concern that the bill is aimed more at winning support for NAP than at aiding the battle against AIDS.

According to Jim Mangia, NAP's lesbian and gay organizing co-chair, the bill seeks to outlaw mandatory testing, quarantine and criminal penalties for people who "transmit" HIV. It also outlaws all forms of discrimination against people with AIDS, ARC, those who test HIV antibody positive and people perceived to have AIDS. The legislation will be introduced in nearly every major city in the country by the end of April, Mangia told *GCN*.

"The New Alliance Party's national campaign for civil rights is the largest effort of its kind in American history," stated Mangia. "We are commemorating the radical independent activism which Stonewall embodied with this national effort."

But most activists interviewed by *GCN* said neither the bill nor NAP is what NAP claims. Sue Hyde, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Sodomy Law Repeal Project, said the issues included in the AIDS bill of rights are "better addressed elsewhere. The Federal Rehabilitation Act covers most of its provisions. NAP likes to appear to be doing something for the community when it is not. The bill is not new.

This is just a scrubbed up effort to get publicity."

NAP presents itself as a multi-racial, Black-led, pro-lesbian and gay party with over 30,000 members nationwide. It sponsored the campaign of a Black woman, Lenora Fulani, for president last year, claiming to seek progressive support for a third party. However, the party's early connection to right-wing political extremist Lyndon LaRouche, its cultish political therapy groups and divisive organizing tactics have raised considerable suspicion in the lesbian and gay and other minority communities, according to activists. The party's support for anti-gay and anti-Jewish Black minister Louis Farrakhan has also angered many on the left. (See *GCN*, Oct. 9, 1988.)

NAP also promotes what activists term a "bizarre" theory about the origin of AIDS. A recent pamphlet demanding the passage of the national AIDS bill of rights contains a paragraph about the link between AIDS and pollution. "The current methodology of AIDS research reinforces the epidemic of blaming and moralism that has reached every segment of our communities. Exclusive focus on the viral/T cell nexus makes AIDS a disease of the individual, infected as a result of 'bad habits.' What has been obscured is that AIDS is a disease of our society. It is produced and propagated by a political system that allows large corporations to pollute and destroy the environment at will, leading to the destruction of our immune systems.... AIDS is in the air!"

Several activists told *GCN* that it is nearly impossible to work with NAP members and that lesbian and gay groups have been disrupted by the group many times. Terry Beswick, a member of ACT UP/San Francisco recounted a recent experience he had

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## Former NE phone employee back in court

Man who received death threats says company protected itself, not him

By Judy Harris

BOSTON — A gay man who has been unable to work for six years due to agoraphobia brought on by a series of telephone death threats he received at his job and home beginning in 1980, continues to pursue a legal battle against his former employer, the New England Telephone Company. In a case that is scheduled to come before Suffolk Superior Court April 17, William Connaughton is claiming that by refusing to disclose information about the origin of the harassing phone calls, New England Telephone prevented him from bringing charges against the culprits, thereby neglecting to protect the civil rights of its employee.

Connaughton has encountered medical, legal, and financial setbacks since originally filing a \$12 million suit against the company in 1983 after he had a severe anxiety attack that required his hospitalization. Connaughton said the stress that led to his severe anxiety was brought on by a series of telephone death threats he received at home and work between 1980 and 1983 from New England Telephone employees. Since that time, according to Connaughton, he has suffered from acute agoraphobia (fear of being in open or public places) and depression, leaving him unable to work or maintain social relationships.

In 1981, after Connaughton told his employer that he was receiving anti-gay, life-threatening phone calls, New England Telephone did install a phone tap — a device that traces origins of calls. However, after tracing the calls, the company refused to release the information to police. Later, after filing several plaintiff's requests for production of documents, Connaughton said the information released from the company's Annoyance Calls Bureau showed that several of the calls originated from within the

telephone company.

At one point, after receiving a promotion that would require him to transfer to another building, Connaughton said he received calls that warned, "Hey fag, you better not come over here," and "Why don't you be a clerk, fag?" Connaughton said that after tracing the calls New England Telephone discovered the calls were being made by someone in the building to which Connaughton was scheduled to transfer. In fact, Connaughton said that according to Annoyance Calls Bureau documents, "the calls tapped were made from the exact phone I would later be using."

New England Telephone spokesperson John Johnson refused to comment on the company's policy for releasing information regarding annoyance calls to police or the recipients of the calls. In reference to the civil charges, Johnson said, "We deny the allegations made by Mr. Connaughton but we are not at liberty to discuss the specifics of the case since it is pending in Superior Court. However, it is fair to say that the essentials of Mr. Connaughton's charges have already been heard in federal court in two separate proceedings and in both instances his case was thrown out of court."

A similar case was dismissed in 1987 when a judge ruled that Connaughton failed to file suit within the allowed statute of limitations. Connaughton filed another case which was dismissed in 1988 by a different judge who ruled that the amended complaint was not substantially different from the 1987 case.

Frank Bruno, who has represented Connaughton in his several attempts to file claims against New England Telephone since 1983, told *GCN* that during the tracing process company administrators "realized

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## Clarification

In its March 12 issue, *GCN* ran a story about a New York State decision to officially permit Medicaid to fund the use of aerosolized pentamidine (AP) to prevent pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) a pneumonia associated with AIDS. *GCN* felt the story was significant because AP-prophylaxis has not yet been fully approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Currently, the FDA labels AP a "treatment investigational new drug," which means its status is experimental.

In preparing the story, *GCN* was led to believe by both New York State and federal officials involved with Medicaid funding, that New York's decision was unique. After the story was printed, *GCN* received several phone calls, including one from John Dixon of the Mass. Governor's AIDS Office, and two from members of ACT UP/Boston, disputing the story's accuracy with respect to Massachusetts Medicaid policy.

To confirm the story, *GCN* contacted various Massachusetts sources, including the Department of Public Welfare, which administers the Medicaid Program. *GCN* was originally told by a department spokesperson that there is nothing in the Program's guidelines that either prohibits or permits Medicaid funding of experimental drugs. According to Nancy Tostanoski,

the department spokesperson, prophylactic aerosolized pentamidine treatments had been funded only on a case by case basis, for several months. The Medicaid Program required the recipients of AP to submit a doctor's prescription, and sign an informed consent form, indicating that he or she understood that the treatment was still deemed experimental by the FDA, according to Tostanoski who said she had checked with several people in the Department, including Claire McIntyre, the Acting Director of the Medicaid Program. Tostanoski also said she found *GCN*'s statement that "New York is the only state to have a provision explicitly permitting reimbursement [for the prophylactic use of AP] in its Medicaid policy" accurate with respect to Massachusetts. This information conflicted with that of other sources, including Mark Schupert, a financial advocate at Boston's AIDS Action Committee.

Several days later, Tostanoski phoned *GCN* and said that she thought that her original information was incorrect. The ensuing confusion among Medicaid Program officials proved so great that official policy prohibiting employees from speaking directly to the press was finally set aside in an effort to clarify the issue.

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# COMMUNITY VOICES

"Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and "Speaking Out" contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership.

Letter and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. "Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES. Send to: Community Voices or Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

## Reeking of homophobia

Dear GCN:

I hope Ms. Hines is right about one thing when she said she thought the Gay Alliance in Dallas was seriously over-reacting to Judge Hampton: that she is the only gay person who feels this way [see *GCN*, Feb. 22-March 4, 1989].

Mr. Bednarski (the convicted killer of two gay men) cannot be re-tried to get a harsher sentence.

Ms. Hines points out that Hampton was "responsible for the execution of justice hundreds of times." How many of these decisions reeked of his homophobia? His comments reveal a sick man who has no business on the bench.

Please rethink your position, Ms. Hines.

Jon D. Barnett  
Kansas City, Mo.

## Military lesbians fight back

Dear GCN:

I recently read an article in the *Village Voice* regarding the bizarre treatment of a lesbian and her lover who'd just been raped and beaten. The incident took place in the emergency room of a hospital in New York City. Security guards repeatedly refused the abused woman's lover entry into the emergency room. Apparently they didn't like her "macho" appearance. In the end, both women were beaten by security guards and the abused woman's lover was arrested on a "misdemeanor assault" charge. When the women tried to file a complaint against one of the guards, they were told that "he was within his legal right to beat her up." Their complaint could not be filed.

This is only one of many incidents of homophobic violence around the country. We continually read about it and witness it, yet what is done? Protest! March! What good has any of this *really* done? It hasn't solved a damn thing as far as I can tell. Both are forgotten in a day or two. It's a time when attention is directed toward the fight against AIDS, but because of AIDS (blamed on homosexuals) homophobic violence is on the rise and will continue to rise. It's time we fought back.

I think the days of nonviolent civil disobedience should end. It's time to fight fire with fire. Maybe if the bastards see we can and are willing to fight back, things will take a different turn. Incidents such as the one above, the Galvin-Alsup murders last year, and countless others make me angry enough to want to do something. These breeder pigs burn down our clubs and destroy any other Gay organizations they can find. Demonstrations haven't changed a thing. It's always thrown on deaf ears. The media covers it for maybe a day and forgets it the next. The word "revolution" is dangerously close to falling out of my mouth. We need to take care of ourselves. No one else gives a damn and no one else will help. Surely the Gay population can't be blind to the police-sanctioned abuse that is happening to us and our friends and lovers. We have judges who send out messages to the nation that it is okay to kill homosexuals by giving small sentences.

This letter may shock people. It may even anger them. I hope it does. It raises the old question, "Why sink to their level?" We can sit around all day asking questions with no answers. We'll still be beaten, raped, robbed and killed solely because of our sexual preference. I'm very tired and bored with this so-called "system." Sure, "justice" will be done if the cops feel like taking up a gay-related case, if they ever

to catch the suspect, if it ever gets to court without him getting off on some cheap plea bargain, and if he isn't given a ridiculous sentence by some judge who hates homosexuals.

The violent treatment of Gays, particularly women, angers me beyond description. It instills in me a raging desire to do something about it, to stop the animals from getting away with their homophobic abuse and give them a taste of their own medicine. It will only continue and possibly get worse unless we fight back. We've tried everything else. How many more of us have to die or suffer needlessly at the hands of these people before we can find the courage to fight them back? It's a question I repeatedly ask myself more urgently now than ever before.

If we're going to be arrested, as we have been at sit-ins, marches, protests, etc., why not be arrested for something worthwhile? I, for one, am willing to take that chance if it means showing the homophobes I'm *not* afraid of them, just very sick of their shit.

If you don't print this letter, I understand. The tone of it is not what your paper is about. It's something I need to get off my chest and am interested in seeing the kind of response it may get. Maybe I'm the only one who feels this way. I doubt it and hope not. I'm just really tired of the verbal and physical assaults. Since I am in the military, I'm also tired of the constant fear of being discharged — as 18 female Marines have been — for my sexual preference. I am a lesbian and proud of it and I will fight if I have to for my right to exist as I am! United we stand — divided we fall!

Sincerely,  
Adrian McMahon-Chadwick  
Providence, R.I.

## On gay boys, lesbian separation and darkness

Dear GCN:

I wasn't at Club Cafe the other night when Jennifer Hertz was hassling "every gay boy she saw" [see *GCN*, "Speaking Out," March 5-11]. If I had been, I would have expressed more than just sympathy to her.

In the first place if you like to be referred to as a "woman," then don't use condescending terms such as "gay boy" when referring to me.

In the second place, although I am sincerely sorry that Somewhere Else was forced to close, I can't be held responsible for its having been the only woman's bar in Boston. Clearly, there should be more woman's bars here, and just as clearly they should be woman-owned and -operated. I'm sure Chicago didn't get the five woman's bars you refer to through the activism of its gay male population.

Which leads me to my final point. In one instant you claim "this is not strictly a lesbian issue," and in the next you tell us you "insist upon woman only space on Friday and Saturday night at local gay bars." Excuse me, but if this isn't "strictly" a lesbian issue, what is? You tell me it's my responsibility to "create space for women." Wrong. It's the responsibility of the women who want to use such space, not the men who'll be excluded from it. To suggest that gay men have an obligation to assist separation is both hypocritical and demeaning — surely lesbians are capable and desirous of controlling their own social lives.

Speaking for myself, I have always tried to make the women who venture into "my space" feel welcome and will continue to do so. I feel it's self-defeating for gays and lesbians to be at odds, considering the larger issues we all face. In the meantime, maybe Ms. Hertz should look into opening her own woman's bar. And I know I didn't make this saying up, but, it's better to light a single candle than to curse the darkness.

John Warakomski  
Boston, Mass.

## Bisexual brothers and sisters welcome

[GCN received a copy of this letter, sent to the Boston Bisexual Men's Network (BBMN) and the Boston Bisexual Women's Network (BBWN) by the president of New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans.]

Dear BBNM and BBWN:

Please be informed that the New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans would like to extend a warm welcome to our bisexual brothers and sisters. Any bisexual veteran is welcome to join our organization.

**Gay Community News** is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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It is time that the "divisions and labels" be put aside, so that we can respect and love each other's right to love and be loved by whomever we chose. I tend to think that one's sexual preference or orientation runs on a "continuum," and a person should not be tagged with a "label."

We, as gay and bisexual human beings, must not think in terms of black and white, because of the rigid restrictions it implies; rather we must think in terms of "Grey," or a blend and mixture of perceptions, thoughts and feelings, and love.

The process of socialization and sexual orientation are interwoven. They produce the many ways that men and women learn how and whom to love. In short, there is no

universal "map" on loving. And for this reason, each and every one of us is, indeed, "unique." And that individuality must be respected.

Please let your brothers and sisters know we are here and they are welcome. If I may be of assistance in any way, please let me know.

In the larger and total picture, we are all in this together, because we all experience the same oppression and alienation from "straight society" that is so destructive to our collective well-being. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Cliff Arnesen  
Boston, Mass.

## PWAs in prison: abandoned, but inspired

### A nation of sheep is begetting a government of wolves

Dear GCN:

I don't think I have much longer in this world. The shit's really hitting the fan. The virus is raising all kinds of hell with me. Have Kaposi's Sarcoma in my nasal passages and on my feet. My herpes (1 and 2) are going wild. I'm being refused experimental drugs and/or treatments. I can't believe the things that are being done in the name of 'justice' and hidden under color of 'law'.

I think blocking the bridge [in San Francisco several weeks ago] was a good thing. All of the more 'peaceful' protests aren't doing enough. We're still being killed off every day and violence against homosexuals is rapidly escalating. It's time to make a serious stand. Where did gay pride go?

The gay communities don't realize the strength and power they have. I'd like to see all of the gay peoples around the world get together and close all major roads and bridges in every state at the same time. The message would hit people like a ton of bricks. I realize that may sound dumb, but it's just as stupid to be murdered and stand still for it. A population of sheep (largely, if not entirely) is begetting a government of wolves. I've seen my friends here die of PCP when there was no need for it. It was murder by ignorance and meanness, plain and simple. It's time to move, people! The masses, not just the 'activists'!!

Res ipsa loquitur  
Michael Pangburn  
18571-004  
PO Box 4000  
Springfield, MO 65808

### AIDS is epidemic in the Bureau of Prisons

Dear GCN:

We stand with those of you out there who are also standing in the fight against AIDS. Over 40 percent of those in the Lewisburg Detention Unit have AIDS, ARC or are HIV positive and no one will help us. It is not safe for us in here, from the inmates or the guards and administration. We are assaulted in one way or another each day in here. Police guards or bitter inmates poke their fingers of fear and hate into our faces. In some way it is suicidal to write this letter or have this 'attitude'. But we cannot rest in peace. And we need your help from the outside fast!

We need better health care and more information about AIDS and how to take care of ourselves. We need to know about nutrition and to have some vitamins and decent food. The only way to get these things now is with money, and who's got that when they're in isolation? These things will not change without some pressure from the outside.

Most of these inmates don't even know what their immunity system is, let alone how it works. We need your help! Please ask about what kind of education and care is available in your (nearby) prison, so they know someone outside cares. Now is the time to do something, even something small. Take an interest, please!

Ivory Wilson, 17860-009  
Gregory Huber, 10289-147  
Box 1000  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

### Even from down in Oregon's hole I could hear the protest

Dear GCN:

Did you read in *GCN* recently about what took place on the Golden Gate Bridge at 7:30am on Jan. 31? There was a banner from one side to the other reading: "AIDS=Genocide; Silence=Death; Fight Back!"

Some serious wording there! Some say the location was wrong. Some could care less. Listen. When you have problems with government or state, they ask you to put your problem on paper and mail it in. But, IF you get an answer at all, there is a good chance it will read 'Not grievable'. How does that sound? Look it up in the dictionary.

Mean time your friend you've known all your life is crying in pain and on his or her last leg. Folks in those big office buildings don't really care. They're going home and leaving you and your dying friend on the memo pad at 5pm.

At times we need to do things that get someone's attention, and yes, it may cost some discomfort. So, here I am writing this letter which may cost me some 'discomfort'.

I am doing two years of isolation hole time for a non-violent protest "riot" concerning gay rights here at Oregon State Correction Division, along with others. Let me set the picture for you to grasp in full.

First a inmate with AIDS is pressurized and humiliated to a point that the young man named Jason hangs himself in his segregation/isolation cell. This humiliation I remind you is by State workers. (So now you have a upset Gay Community in Prison and also a very hurt mother and father.) Not too long afterwards a sergeant dies in an autowreck, so tension between the two groups grows. Then the head of the prison is stabbed to death at his office. Now tension is dangerous, even though these events are not related.

We prisoners have been trying the paper-work routine to get some medical information and care and some respect from the staff in here, but like I said your reply, if you get one, is negative. So a non-violent protest, which they called a "riot", was held and now several of us are in isolation cells for a matter of years!

For those on the Golden Gate Bridge who were doing their thing, I commend you. Believe me, you raised a few eyebrows. I am in a little hole here in Oregon, and I heard you. It may have been wrong in many eyes, but life is wrong at times. I'm doing two years in the hole, but I believe in myself and what I did.

And I ask some of you out there, who have more power than you think with your letters of inquiry and ability to show an outside interest, to write Gov. Goldschmidt, Oregon State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310, and Supt. Carl Zenon, 3405 Deer Park Dr SE, Salem, OR 97310, and let them know you are aware of inmates getting beat down and of homosexual harassment, and that you protest.

I've got two years to do in this hole and I'd love to hear from someone too.

Rodney Mellin  
13088  
3405 Deer Park Dr. SE  
Salem, OR 97310

## Disappeared in Latin America and the U.S.

By Kelley Ready

As I left the probation office where I was applying for the "good conduct" letter I needed to get my visa to El Salvador, I realized that I needed to try to clarify the connections between my own struggle for civil rights and my solidarity work with the people of El Salvador. The connections were slapping me in the face at that moment since the probation officers were refusing to issue the letter I needed. They didn't have a record of my payment of the court costs levied on me after I participated in the civil disobedience at the Mass. State House protesting their failure to pass the Gay Rights Bill in 1988.

I've been thinking about these connections since the March on Washington, where the affirmation of being in a city filled with queers qualitatively changed the way I feel about my sexual identity. Suddenly we were seeing the breadth of our community, celebrating, mourning, creating, demanding, loving visibly on the streets, filling the long escalators coming out of the subways cheering, "We are everywhere and we will be free!" All of this gave me a sense of validation that I had never experienced in terms of my gayness — feeling as if I had the right to be, as I am, as a lesbian.

A panel attended the first afternoon in Washington also changed my understanding of the implications of my sexuality. Coming from my own experience of activism in the labor and solidarity movements, I expected the panel on "Sexuality and Politics" to focus on issues of sexual identity within other political movements. I was surprised and very stimulated (intellectually, of course) to discover that the panel was about sexual politics in and of itself. And although I was disappointed at not having an opportunity to explore some of the questions that remained unanswered for me, the panel provided an entire new context in which to consider those questions.

A month and a half after the March on Washington, I went to El Salvador on a delegation with about 20 people from Boston, including several other lesbians. We went at the invitation of the CoMadres, the Committee of Mothers of the Disappeared of El Salvador. They were holding a conference in San Salvador for the entire Latin American Federation of the Committees of the Disappeared.

Disappearance is a tactic of repression that has been used consistently in Latin America since the U.S. coup against the democratically-elected Arbenz government in Guatemala in 1954. But its roots can be traced back to Nazi Germany via the numerous ex-Nazis who fled to Latin America.

These exiles were incorporated into the military power structures of those countries as well as the intelligence agencies of the United States. When someone is "disappeared," they may have been abducted by the police, by members of the military disguised in civilian clothing, or by men openly identifying themselves as members of death squads. However, once someone is disappeared, their detention is denied by every official. The terror this exerts is paralyzing and far-reaching. Friends, family, and coworkers are afraid to act for fear it will mean the death of their loved ones. In the process of searching for the missing one, the family is brought into contact with others who have been disappeared — in the jails, in the hospitals, in the morgues, and in the clandestine cemeteries where they can see the signs of torture on the mutilated corpses that have been dumped there by the death squads.

However, women all across the continent have turned that grief into a powerful force for change. The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo in Argentina are the best known for their weekly demonstrations wearing white kerchiefs and carrying photos of their lost children or grandchildren. The CoMadres have been an incredible force in both their country and the United States in publicizing the fallacy of democracy in El Salvador.

Upon my return to the United States, I learned that my own Senator in the Mass. Senate had bottled up the Gay Rights Bill so that it wouldn't come to a vote before the end of the session. The images of the women of Latin America confronting these powerful military regimes pushed me to turn my

own anger into action. So I joined a group of people who chained themselves to chairs in the State House Gallery and refused to leave until they passed the bill or dragged us out.

Needless to say, they dragged us out, but the viciousness and brutality that I witnessed in the process recalled for me the stories I had heard in El Salvador. Clearly the degree was hundreds of times less severe, but the hatred on the face of one court officer as he intentionally twisted the legs of one of the demonstrators he was carrying out, mingled in my nightmares for the next few weeks with images of Salvadoran torturers.

The analogies kept coming to me. A few weeks later, while waiting for one of our various court appearances, some of my fellow demonstrators and I were discussing the effects of the brutality we had experienced. Suddenly I realized that what we were protesting was our society's attempt to "disappear" our homosexuality. Later it occurred to me that the failure of our government to adequately address the AIDS epidemic means that they don't need to employ death squads. And when the Quilt came to Boston, I realized that its magnificence as a healing and empowering response was foreshadowed by the arpillas of Chilean women commemorating their lost ones.

As I prepare myself to leave for El Salvador once again, I realize I am headed to a country that not only would deny my gay rights but has repressed the most basic human rights of its people. Yet the lessons and strength I gather from the struggles of the Salvadoran people fuel not just my solidarity work but my work as a gay rights activist. And, of course, the converse is true. My ability to affirm myself, to channel the power of my loving into positive directions, to use this as a source of vitality, and to remain committed to all of our struggles would be more easily disappeared without the growing breadth of the gay rights movement.

*Kelly Ready has recently left her position as a printer with the Red Sun Press collective in order to devote herself more fully to human rights activism and solidarity work with the people of Central America.*

**The opinions expressed in Speaking Out are those of the author(s) and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership.**

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All **GCN** positions require a commitment to lesbian/gay liberation, feminism, anti-racism, an awareness of class issues, and a commitment to collective decision making.

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To apply, please send resume and cover letter to **GCN** Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.



## Edward J. Garabedian, 1958-1989

By Jack Armitage

DANVERS, Mass. — Eddie Garabedian died of complications related to AIDS at his home on Saturday, March 11. His parents were with him and his closest friends spent his final day with him as well.

In the 30 years of Eddie's life, he gained the professional respect of the entertainment community of greater Boston and performed as a Near Eastern dancer of Armenian Folkdance. He appeared regularly at the Averoff Supper Club in Boston and Bishops of Lawrence. Known professionally as "Amir," Eddie travelled internationally and throughout the United States performing for many charities. He appeared on television on the *Sally Jessy Raphael Show*, *Boston's Evening Magazine*, and the *Good Day Show*, with Eileen Prose. Eddie attended the Boston University Theater of Arts and was a member of the International Thespian Society.

For each of us who knew Eddie personally, life as his friend was a constant frenzy of hilarity and non-stop brilliant entertainment. Eddie's entrances were only upstaged by his exits, and the time between was brimmed with his stylized interpretations of people, events and fantasies embroidered with props he'd pull from his pockets, his friends and his life. As Eddie performed, his keen eye would roam through a room and he might later be found offering his friendship and gifted love to a needy person who perhaps struck him as sad or lonesome.

Eddie lived the course of his time with AIDS with typical devotion and quality of life. He never compromised a dignity that he promised himself at the earliest stages of his diagnosis. An hour before he died, Eddie cracked his final joke, and as he weakened, he looked up to his mother and said, "I think I'll go to sleep now." And he did.

Eddie left a loving, devoted family, many, many friends and a memory of example and quality for all of us as we define the course of our lives.

Donations may be made in Eddie's memory to Strongest Link AIDS Services at 41 Cross Street, Topsfield, MA 01983. □

### 96

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margin. It was widely criticized by AIDS activists as a repressive attempt to punish and quarantine people with AIDS (PWAs), those who test HIV antibody positive and those who are associated with "criminal" activities.

Rene Durazzo, spokesperson for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, said the law strikes fear in the hearts of anyone who comes into contact with police and fire department officers. "This puts everyone at risk for mandatory testing. If you are in an accident and bleed they can force a test. If you are arrested and have any contact with a police officer you can be tested," Durazzo told *GCN*.

On the same ballot, Proposition 102, which would have ended anonymous HIV antibody testing and required doctors to report to government health officials anyone "suspected" of being HIV antibody positive, was struck down by a two-to-one margin. The bill also would have required public health officials to notify every known sexual contact of those who test positive.

But while a well publicized and funded

campaign was mounted to defeat 102, 96 received much less attention from the lesbian and gay community and progressive organizations. Many activists argued that 102 was the more destructive of the two bills, and that defeating 96 was virtually impossible. Others said the campaigns to defeat 102 and 96 should have been joined together and accused those working exclusively on 102 of "selling out" those most affected by 96 — prisoners and people accused of crimes.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Northern California has filed suit on behalf of Williams, challenging the constitutionality of 96. Matt Coles, staff attorney for the ACLU, told *GCN* that "our position is that you cannot force a test when HIV transmission is only a theoretical possibility. Everyone agrees that in this case the woman only shared saliva, which health officials do not believe transmits HIV. Forcibly taking blood from someone constitutes an unreasonable search."

Johnson's public defender, Grace Suarez, blasted the new law. "A search must be based only on probable cause, not AIDS hysteria. If she is forced to take the test what would it prove? If she tests positive it doesn't mean she necessarily transmitted the virus. This is just an attempt to try to control people who are commonly associated with AIDS."

Coles said the Johnson case is part one of a three-part strategy to get the courts to rule that Proposition 96 is unconstitutional. In Johnson's case, Coles said the strategy is aimed at getting the courts to rule that mandatory tests are not constitutional when HIV transmission is nothing more than a theoretical possibility.

The second part of the strategy involves challenging the idea, promoted by 96, that mandatory testing aids the public health in any circumstance. "At the moment, mandatory tests have no benefit — they don't tell us anything. There are no benefits whatsoever to public health. All it does is damage those who are being forcibly tested," said Coles.

The third part of the strategy is to convince the courts that existing HIV tests are sometimes inaccurate and often fail to detect HIV if the person being tested has been infected in the last six months, according to Coles.

Alison Hardy, a staff member of Prison Law Office in Davis, California, told *GCN* that although Proposition 96 has yet to be implemented in California prisons, she fears prisoners with AIDS or who are HIV antibody positive face prison crackdowns. "The DOC [Department of Corrections] has yet to issue guidelines about how to implement 96. But I'm afraid prisoners are going to face stepped up testing." She said California prisons already segregate prisoners based on HIV status. She said 230 prisoners with AIDS or who have tested HIV positive are already housed in segregated units where adequate medical care is nearly nonexistent. "The conditions are very poor for these prisoners. They are denied access to educational and recreational programs that make life in prison bearable."

In prisons, condoms and needles are contraband, and safe sex education is "haphazard at best," so HIV may spread unchecked, said Hardy. "96 will allow the DOC even more widespread use of testing and segregating. But nothing is in place to help prisoners with AIDS or to reduce HIV transmission among prisoners. We should remember that many prisoners will soon be back in communities where they will infect spouses or loved ones," she said.

Carol Leigh (a.k.a. Scarlet Harlet), a member of ACT UP/San Francisco and the prostitute rights group Cast Off Your Old Tired Ethics (COYOTE), told *GCN* she fears Proposition 96 will be used primarily against prisoners and working prostitutes. "What 96 does is allow already existing prejudices inherent in the judicial system to be played out. Since prostitutes are considered a 'high risk population' the law will be used to single us out. An officer can force a test if we have any contact," said Leigh.

Although Leigh said she has not yet heard of 96 being used against prostitutes, she believes the new law gives police the power to crack down on prostitution. She pointed out that 13 states already have laws mandating HIV antibody testing for all people arrested for prostitution. In California, prostitutes suspected of being HIV antibody positive are often denied bail when arrested, and given longer jail sentences if convicted, according to Leigh.

□ filed from Boston

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Rebeca Sevilla

## Saliendo del closet en Lima

*An interview with Peruvian lesbian Rebeca Sevilla*

*The following article is excerpted from an interview by Sybilla Claus with Rebeca Sevilla, published in the Dutch gay/lesbian monthly magazine, SEK, in February of last year. Sevilla, who is Peruvian, was in the Netherlands for a few weeks at the end of 1987. She attended two gay studies conferences in Amsterdam where she showed a videotape made during a police raid on the only lesbian bar in Lima. In this article, she talks about coming out, about the lesbian bar scene in Lima, about the police raid and about the feminist lesbian group to which she belongs.*

**By Rebeca Sevilla, interviewed by Sybilla Claus**

*translated from the Dutch by Paulus van Dooremal*

I was born in Lima. When I turned 18, I began to have doubts about my sexual preference. At school nobody talked about sexuality. The media were and still are, as far as this is concerned, very conservative as well. I thought: maybe I have to try having a relationship with a man to forget about the women who intrigue me so. In 1976 [when I was 20], I became a student of Economics [at the University] and joined a small left-wing party, which at that time was a very dangerous thing to do. It was an important era in politics because the climate was becoming somewhat more progressive. In the party, we discussed our rights and the differences between women and men.

After a few years I dropped out of school and got a job. I didn't want to live with my parents any more, contrary to what is common for most single women. Because of that choice I had to work. I met a woman and we started to live together. My relatives did not know about this, but I do think they had some kind of vague suspicion.

When I was 24 I accepted myself as being a lesbian. I had never been in a lesbian bar and I was quite shocked when I first went to one. This was the "lesbian ghetto." Most women looked like typical butch-dykes! I am a feminist and hate that appearance and the behavior that goes with it. If your appearance isn't clear in a place like that, they ask: "Are you active or passive?" Everyone is in the closet and a lot of the women do not like the word lesbian. There is a class difference between the lesbians of the ghetto, and the lesbians in the women's movement who have often been able to study.

Gay bars have existed here in Lima for 30-40 years. But much more than bars does not exist. It is very difficult to trace lesbian books or photographs, except maybe during the last two years, when every now and then something appears in a feminist journal. Other than that, lesbian life is more or less hidden. For example, not many people know about the 20-40 lesbians who play soc-

cer for a popular soccer team — but that is a way to meet other lesbians.

The first time I met a lesbian from Lima was in 1983 at a feminist conference. [I was 27.] Four hundred women participated in a workshop on being lesbian that was organized outside of the official conference program. Two women from Peru came out in that workshop. They told me there was a lesbian bar in Lima. Six months after the conference we began to meet regularly. In April 1984, 12 women met to talk about their personal history and about how they could support each other. In the beginning, GALF (Grupo de Autoconciencia de Lesbianas Feministas) as we named our group, was mainly a support group. Topics were, for example, problems with family members and problems at work. Our ideal was to tell other women about ourselves, about our being lesbian.

### The raid

GALF has become much stronger lately, dating from the police raid on June 6, 1987 on the only lesbian bar in Lima. Seventy women were arrested and carried off while television cameras were filming. The night of the raid I had a party at my house. It was purely coincidental that nobody out of our group was in that bar that night. The bar is closed now. It was a very popular place. Everybody went there, women of all classes and colors. The owner was very interested in our work, she sold our newsletter in the bar and referred women to us.

After the raid we talked with the women who were present in the bar that night in order to find out what exactly had happened. We wanted to know if the police wanted money from them. We also considered a lawsuit against the police because lesbianism in Peru is no valid reason for arrest. Legally the word lesbian doesn't even exist. Homosexuality only occurs in one legal clause. There it is formulated as a reason for divorce. But most gay men and lesbians are afraid and don't know that a legal ground to arrest them doesn't exist. They think they are breaking the law.

We dropped the lawsuit idea because a lot of the women arrested in the raid didn't see the political aspect of the case, or they were afraid of the consequences. They thought the way the raid was reported on television was bad enough.

But after the raid a lot of positive things started to happen. Our lesbian group GALF has become stronger, and at this point has a stable core of five women. For a few hours a week we can use a small room in a feminist office. We are accessible by phone. Each week there is also a support group of more than 20 women. They talk about the

*Continued on page 10*



Tilda Swinton in *The Last of England*

## Fucking a classical painting

*The Last of England* is Derek Jarman's iconoclastic look at Britain in the late '80s

**The Last of England.** By Derek Jarman, with Tilda Swinton, Spencer Leigh, Spring, and the voice of Nigel Terry. Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, March 26.

By Liz Galst

British gay filmmaker Derek Jarman isn't exactly a household name in the way Steven Spielberg is. There may be many theories about why this is; I tend to blame it on homophobia and monopoly capital. The reason it's such a drag that Jarman isn't better known is that more than any other major filmmaker these days (he's produced 16 features and shorts in the last 14 years) he constantly pushes the limits of his art form. Now, all this isn't to say that Jarman is the god of film incarnate. Some of his films are just plain bad, or, if they're not bad, their imagery is fairly inaccessible. But if you've ever seen *Caravaggio*, or the music video of The Smiths' "The Queen is Dead," you can tell that Jarman knows what a stunning medium film can be.

Jarman's brash work constantly straddles that often gaping divide between dramatic and personal film, between traditional narrative and experimental. Because of the way his films unfold, I always feel I'm not just a witness to his creative process, I'm part of it. This is a nice contrast to those slick Hollywood features that rarely invite me to do anything other than buy tickets.

And besides that, who else would capture the life of St. Sebastian in a Latin-language, soft-core gay porn flick as Jarman did in his first feature film *Sebastiane*? Someone should give the man an award.

Jarman's latest feature, *The Last of England*, is an apocalyptic look at Great Britain in the late '80s. It's an intensely visual film (Jarman was trained as a painter), explicitly queer, and, well, let's just say the film's progress does not rely too heavily on plot. In some fabulously synchronistic way, all this has to do with broken promises of childhood and democracy, isolation, the eroticization of terror, and the possible escape of some small remnant of society.

The film is vaguely divided into three sections. The first takes place under an artist's gaze. The artist provides a voice-over narration (Nigel Terry's resonant voice is wonderful) about life in the U.K. in the nuclear era. The narration, which unifies the visual images underneath it, is written by Jarman with some help from Shakespeare, Ginsberg, and a few other notable people of letters. What we see is Jarman's then-boyfriend trudging through decrepit remnants of public housing. He shoots up in squats, kicks, and then fucks some classical painting. These garish visuals, all black and white, or alternately, deeply maroon and yellow, contrast with the technicolor home movies of Jarman's seemingly halcyon childhood.

Alas, as the middle section begins, the narration ends, and so too my grasp on Jarman's movie. This segment centers on the taking and execution of hostages. At the same time there is some wild imagery of a man in an abandoned warehouse, bare-chested and holding a flare, which intercuts

with some other weird red and black imagery that looks like naked people dancing (but which, I thought, could just as easily have been newsreel footage of concentration camp inmates, with the footage cut together so fast it looks like dancing). In the midst of all this, some pretty society boy nearly drowns himself in vodka and then has sex on a huge British flag with one of his fully-clothed captors. Myself, I wondered if this was some left-over footage from Jarman's 1984 film *Imagining October*. Anyway, by this point I was definitely lost without the narration, despite the striking images Jarman employs.

All of which brings me to the third section, in which the lucky few who've survived the executions depart from some dock in the

Continued from page 12

### Suit

Continued from page 3

they could be held liable for what their employees were doing and at that point it became, 'Me, first.' Bruno said, "We will argue that one of the reasons that [Connaughton's] constitutional rights were not protected is that [New England Telephone] decided his rights were not as important as their right to protect themselves."

Bruno said the phone company has neglected to protect Connaughton's "right of enjoying and defending one's life and liberty" and "of seeking and obtaining [one's] safety and happiness" as guaranteed by the Massachusetts State Constitution.

Connaughton, who is now 34, said that at one time he was a politically and socially active person. He recalled that for his 23rd birthday party, he entertained over 500 guests at 119, a men's club in Boston. Now, he said he has become isolated from the gay community in part due to his agoraphobia and the stigma attached to mental illness. He said he has left the house only for doctor appointments during the last six years, and was always accompanied by his mother until she died in August of last year. Even now, his sister does all of his grocery shopping and he secludes himself in one room of his house. Connaughton did, however, consent to being interviewed at his home by a local television station in February for a brief spot on the six o'clock news. But within two hours of the news appearance, said Connaughton, he received a death threat at his new, non-published number. In response to the most recent call, Connaughton said, "You just freeze. No matter how many times you've gotten a call, you just don't know how to react."

Connaughton explained that he is persisting with the case for reasons that go beyond recouping the financial losses of being unable to work. "I have to see this through for myself, for my own self esteem and because I was wronged." He added that the phone company could never repay what he has lost, saying that he believes his brother — who was also gay — committed suicide four years ago in part because he was unable to cope with watching Connaughton's struggles with agoraphobia.

Bruno told *GCN* that if Connaughton wins the case he could recover the \$15,000 he has paid in psychotherapy bills and other living expenses he incurred during the six years he has been unemployed. □

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Michael Goodson as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, The New Ehrlich Theatre

## In memory of Boston actor Michael Goodson

Actor Michael Goodson committed suicide on February 25 in Alabama. He was 39. Goodson had lived in the Boston area for nearly 20 years, bringing a wealth of gay characters to the stages of the Triangle and New Ehrlich theaters. A memorial service will be held for him at the New Ehrlich Theatre, 551 Tremont St., on March 26 at 7pm.

### An uncommon generosity

By Michael Bronski

Watching Michael Goodson perform on stage was to be privy not so much to an acting style — although Michael did have his own, highly developed technique — but to an uncommon generosity. First and foremost Michael Goodson was a generous actor: to both the characters he was playing (from the uptight closet leather queen in Joe Orton's *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* to the censorious and formidable Lady Bracknell of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*) and to the audiences he enthralled.

Generosity is not a quality many people think about when they discuss acting. But although it is not in and of itself a hallmark of a fine performance, it is necessary for any role seeking an emotional half-life, a lingering imprint on the emotional and psychological memory of the audience. Some actors have perfect technique — they can create a total character right before your eyes — but the performance is cold, almost calculated; others bring all empathy to a part, reducing the character to nothing more than an extension of their own fears and dreams. But the generous actor treats his or her character as though it were their best friend, someone whose foibles and follies were as prized as their sterling qualities. A generous actor always gives the impression — deep down inside of the performance — that he or she respects and understands, if not always likes, the person being played. Michael was that sort of actor.

Many of the characters he played — either at the New Ehrlich or Triangle Theater — were not likable: the destructive fathers in Sam Shepard's *The Curse of the Starving Class* and *Fool for Love*; the weak-willed college professor, George in Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*; as well as *Mr. Sloane*'s Ed and Wilde's Lady Bracknell. What Michael brought to these roles was a sense of emotional realism that turned them from caricatures or unlikable fools to complex, vibrant people.

Even his Lady Bracknell — a role that verges on parody to begin with, and when played in drag almost always becomes a theatrical oddity — was a woman who garnered some sympathy in her desire to rule and control the lives of those around her. Michael's "trick" here was not to play the role as camp — that was too obvious and much too easy — but to play it straight; he did not act as though he were in drag (all six feet and then some) but as though he were Lady Bracknell, a Victorian woman who was not only a product of her times but determined to make the times a product of her will. His Bracknell was a monster of social engineering, one who not only had a

heart, but a heart we could see and understand.

Michael's performance as Arnold Beckoff in *Torch Song Trilogy*, presented by the Triangle Theater last spring, may have been the epitome of his talent. At once funny, touching and angry, his Arnold was a drag queen who wore his heart of gold on his sleeve and was ready to fight anyone who would disregard him or his feelings. It was here that Michael's generosity as an actor came into full view, for although Arnold is

Continued on page 12

### Life in the web

By Richard W. Freeman, a fan

first met Michael Goodson in the (cat pissed) Leland Center when he sang a beautiful torch song to me and Judy Braha. A hulking 6'4", Michael had draped himself in the most coy arrangement one could imagine. Needless to say, he had impressed himself on Judy's artistic sensibility and had intimidated me with his vulnerability. To sum up my initial feelings about Michael, I thought he was weird.

But I was only a stage manager at that point and my opinion didn't really matter (although it was tolerated) and he got the part of Greta in *Bent* anyway. So I became "Hilda", the glorified name Greta would

Continued on page 12

### My friend, co-worker, inspiration

By Chris Tarjan

On stage with me over the years Michael played the roles of co-worker, employer, employee, a second-string critic to my first-string critic, my father, my son, and my lover. Off stage, Michael lived the roles of my friend, co-worker, father figure and inspiration. No actor has touched my life more deeply or with more honesty than Michael. He gave willingly — to me and all those around him — any knowledge he possessed of life, theatre, art, love or even the fine art of enjoying a quart of "Bud" and a "Slim Jim."

I remember when I first came to the New Ehrlich Theatre three years ago. As an actor with no formal training I decided that my training would come from watching, listening to, and working with those people my untrained eye could respect. Well! That untrained eye didn't strain very hard before it rested on Michael Goodson permanently. Seven shows later I sit here writing about my late friend and perhaps the most talented and versatile actor the Boston theatre scene

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## Interview

Continued from page 7

"heteronorm" in society, biases, role models and having children. We also irregularly issue a newsletter. Every now and then we receive financial support from NOVIB ["A Dutch organization that gives grants to non-profit groups in Third World countries."]. We have contacts with other parts of the gay and lesbian movement and some left-wing groups. Recently these organizations also started to devote time to lesbian issues.

### Latin American lesbian conference

Early 1986 was the first time some of us went abroad to participate in a lesbian conference and there we met lesbians from other Latin-American countries. Because of financial aid from ILIS [the international lesbian organization based in Amsterdam] we could travel to Geneva. That was the beginning of a dream to organize a Latin American lesbian conference in Mexico.

In October 1987, the conference was held there.... For financial reasons it seemed to be impossible for our group to go at first. But eventually we had some money and therefore tickets. Finally four of us went. We had never read anything about other lesbian groups in Latin America. We thought there would be two or three, maybe. But 250 lesbians showed up. Exciting! It was like a dream. Twelve women from the Dominican Republic! A group exists in Santiago de Chile, really! Five women from Costa Rica; one of them owns a bar, so they have a place to organize meetings. There are so many women in Mexico that they can fight among each other! There were Latinas and Chicanas who live in North America. For them it is hard to live abroad, to be Latina and lesbian in the USA. In some ways their problems are so different from ours. In Latin America there is not enough food, money, work and education. The very last step in a woman's life is sexuality.

It is very important to communicate with groups in other parts of the world, to exchange information. Four hundred women participated in our workshop on lesbian politics at the Mexico conference, including important women from the feminist movement. Because of that a very interesting dialogue could develop. Usually conferences like this close with a party. A press conference closed this conference and in this press conference a lesbian participated. For the first time the women's movement in Latin America publicly talked with lesbians. For the first time they acknowledged that lesbians exist. Following the press conference there was a march through Mexico City, the "Capital" of machismo in Latin America. We were with 1200 women. It was very colorful and cheerful. We carried a banner with the word "Lesbianismo." The public was very surprised. They didn't know anything better than to shout "Go home and wash dishes."

During this first lesbian conference GALF decided to organize the second conference in Lima. Before that we had long hesitated about how to openly approach society. But since the conference we are working more on "out-of-the-closet" issues than ever before. We think it is important that women in the bars and ghettos know that our group exists. They don't get any news about us via the regular press, because the regular press doesn't print our articles. Television gave negative attention to the raid. The lesbian lifestyle can only be seen in pornography. In spite of all this there have to be about a hundred thousand lesbians in Lima!

Personally I spoke for the first time as a lesbian at a press conference in Lima. My life becomes more public by the day. I want new work, work that is more in line with my lifestyle and ideals.

As for GALF, we would like to have our own office. There is a lot of work to be done because the next conference is planned to be held here in Lima in September 1989. Fortunately there are also people in the feminist movement and gay movement who want to help with that.

\*\*\*

**Postscript:** The owner of the lesbian bar that was raided in Lima in 1987 has since opened a new bar, according to Lucrecia Bermudez — a Peruvian member of the San Francisco-based gay/lesbian Latin American group, Amoranto. The new bar is primarily, although not exclusively, lesbian. Bermudez said gay mixed-sex bars are characteristic in Lima because that way patrons can pretend they're straight if necessary. The butch-femme scene continues to be popular among lesbians in the bars, although "there are

now also many women who don't want to take a role." Sports — like soccer and volleyball — still provide one of the few environments in which lesbians can feel free as lesbians.

Asked to comment on whether there have been any significant changes for lesbians in the last two years, Bermudez said she does not see "an opening of society." She added that conditions in Lima make militant action on the part of lesbians and/or gay men very difficult. "There was no Stonewall-type of response" to the raid, according to Bermudez, and it would have been ineffective if it had occurred because "the streets of Lima are already a constant battleground between the people and the police. You would have to have so many people to be noticed." (Peru faces a devastating political and economic crisis. According to Mark Fried, editor of *Report on the Americas*, death squad killings have been linked to the current civilian Social Democratic government and disappearances at the hands of the military are rampant. The Maoist "Sendero Luminoso" guerrillas — known for their attacks on the Left as well as for killing homosexuals when they take over a town — control more and more territory. A coalition on the Left called the United Left (IU) is given a good chance of winning national elections to be held next year, but the army could decide to intervene to stop them from taking power. (For more information, see "Coca: The Real Green Revolution," Vol. XXII, No. 6 of *Report on the Americas*, published by the North American Congress on Latin America [NACLA], NY.)

While the obstacles to more freedom for lesbians and gay men remain enormous, lesbians in Lima did step up organizing after the police raid. Bermudez said some women met more regularly for a period of time, initially to determine if all the lesbians apprehended by police had gotten home safely. This was a major concern because the police took the women from the bar to the police station before the beginning of nighttime curfew and released them on the street after curfew was in effect. The women were therefore compelled to hide where they could through the night, trying to avoid soldiers.

Another serious problem was the exploitative television coverage of the raid, in which the cameras panned up and down the bodies of the women being pulled out of the bar. According to Bermudez, the segment lasted a full six minutes, extraordinarily long for a news piece; and it was shown over and over for a week. The coverage "forced the women to take on lesbianism in a more open way — even though they weren't looking to do that," said Bermudez. She said that if "another drastic situation such as the raid occurs in Lima, it will make lesbians and gay men more visible again."

□ **Stephanie Poggi**

## Clarification

Continued from page 3

Sharon Connors, who, as the Director of Health Choices, oversees Medicaid's health care programs, including AIDS programs and services, told *GCN* that AP prophylaxis "is and always has been a reimbursable service for Medicaid," and that explicit guidelines permitting such reimbursement had been in place for "about a year." She said no procedure, like the submission of an informed consent form, is required. Connors also noted that Medicaid had served as a model for other insurers in Massachusetts, being the first to cover the costs of AP. Connors confirmed the contentions of Schupert, ACT UP, and others in the AIDS community.

*GCN* was always aware that AP is funded by Medicaid in Massachusetts, and stated in the second paragraph of its original article that "Doctors and patients across the country have often found ways to finance AP treatments through Medicaid," even when such reimbursements are not explicitly provided for. Those ways include finding loopholes in existing policies, and quietly going beyond the scope of those policies. For example, in New York, payment for AP prophylaxis was often made as a reimbursement for pentamidine, which is in fact an approved treatment for AP infection (as opposed to the aerosolized version used preventatively). Medicaid officials simply did not inquire about the actual use and administration of the drug, according to some Medicaid officials and health care providers.

Despite the confusion among policy makers themselves, *GCN* should have known that Massachusetts' AP funding policy is not one that operates in the

Continued on page 12

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## Generosity

Continued from page 9

quite likable as a character — he is the center of the three one-act plays which make up the evening — he is also somewhat self-pitying and annoying. When Harvey Fierstein played the part — which he also wrote and created — Arnold was a mass of self-absorbed empathy about to reach its breaking point. It would have been easy to follow Fierstein's breathtaking lead and play Arnold as he had been done on Broadway. But Michael brought Arnold to life on the Triangle stage as more self-critical, and filled with self-respect that came from self-knowledge rather than an awareness of what he deserved.

Michael will be missed on the Boston stage, not for what he has done — those who saw him perform will have the memory of that — but for what he didn't get to do. There were so many parts to which he would have brought his own special brand of acting magic; I could easily imagine him in plays by Albee and Tennessee Williams as well as in the upcoming Triangle production of *Breaking the Code* in the role of the tormented computer expert Alan Turing. It is impossible to estimate the loss of such a person to his community, be it the theater community, the gay community, or his own circle of friends. But although there is sadness and pain, the final gift Michael has given Boston theatergoers and fellow actors is a standard of excellence to which others can aspire. □

## Web

Continued from page 9

call when her music cue was late because the tape deck wasn't in the mood on a particular evening. But when we got it right, the blue light would silhouette his 6'8" skeletal form (it was the 4" pink pumps that added to the effect) and a haunting melody would fill the theatre with impending doom and hideous seduction — all the beauty of a spider's web at dawn.

Our work together in *Bent* was an auspicious beginning to a friendship that would last seven years and go through more twists and turns than your average roller coaster ride. Michael would play a vengeful angel of God with me, a tyrannical college professor, a battleship matron, and the perfect (thank you, Dixie) Scrooge with me.

And I would hold his hand as he told me he could never be someone's father (make believe or otherwise), or I would feel his swollen lymph nodes and convince him his fear was the same as every other gay man's, but that he was fine. And I would go over to his house for poached eggs on toast at least once every six months and complain about the art of love and the love of art which always gave us plenty to complain about.

This was a man who lived to be applauded, but somehow never really heard the thunderous approval of his peers, his loved ones and his fans. And I don't know why. I wish he had, because maybe he'd still be here today.

The greatest thing about theatre is that eventually the play closes and you are left with the memories. I guess life imitates art in more ways than I know.

Forever yours,  
Hilda

## Friend

Continued from page 9

has been blessed with. He played a matriarch in drag and a broken down drunk in rags, never ceasing to grow within himself, delight his growing audience and charm his fellow actors. And he never lost his sense of fun.

Michael could carry on a discussion about avant-garde cinematographers while putting on his make up. Be interrupted long enough to do a Laura Petrie dance improvisation with the rest of the cast and sit back down to his "intellectual stimulant" without missing a beat.

The same man who would storm out of rehearsal for *Torch Song Trilogy* because too much noise was being made by the set crew and he couldn't concentrate on his monologue, would stop that same monologue during a show to invite latecomers to their seats, improv for a few minutes with the audience and then gracefully slide back into the script with a subtle transition like, "Now, where was I?" Michael escorted literally lost theatregoers off the stage when they found their way onto it from a mid-second-act bathroom trip and often escorted actors back to their lines when they had an unexpected trip to "what was my line" land.

He was always there. On and off the stage he made time in his life to make sure you were all right.

Last week the entire New Ehrlich Theatre Company got together to discuss Mike's memorial service. After a while it turned into a storytelling session of Michael Goodson antics. At one point, one of the New Ehrlich conservatory students said she hadn't known Michael all that long and wasn't sure if she deserved to feel the grief that she was feeling. That is when I realized that when Michael touched you, you felt him forever. Some of us just have a few more silly stories to tell.

I know I'll feel naked the next time I walk out on stage and don't see Michael. But I have what I learned from him to use and give to others. My successes will be part of him, as will my failures. I just hope he can see what an impact he has had. I hope he can smile. I hope he is feeling no pain, and I hope he's not offended that I still won't eat a goddamn "Slim Jim." I love Michael Goodson and I miss him...a lot. □

## Clarification

Continued from page 10

loopholes. Both Massachusetts and New York have official Medicaid reimbursement policies explicitly permitting the funding of the preventative use of AP, according to Connors of Massachusetts, and Joseph L. Guy, Director of Medicaid Management Information Systems for the New York State Health Department.

New York's decision remains significant, however, because it reversed an earlier policy prohibiting the funding of experimental treatments like AP. Such a reversal was apparently never necessary in Massachusetts, where Tostanoski, Connors, and others in the department say that Medicaid never prohibited the funding of AP. Tostanoski told *GCN*, "I've never heard of a request [for AP reimbursement] being turned down." In practice, few such requests were ever denied in New York, either. But according to Guy, up until the recent policy change, strict adherence to its own guidelines would have required that those requests be refused.

Interestingly, Guy said that New York's original prohibition of providing Medicaid funds for experimental drugs was based on that state's interpretation of federal Medicaid guidelines. "As a matter of general principle, Medicaid is not supposed to be paying for experimental therapies," Guy said, saying the federal guidelines are intended to protect poor people and prisoners from being used as "guinea pigs."

But at least one federal official told *GCN* for its original article that no such federal guidelines exist. Guy said that "this kind of confusion is not unusual. It's consistent with what my experience has been," speaking about his dealings with the various state and federal Medicaid bureaucracies. While Guy was unaware of Massachusetts AP policy, Connors said that she was "familiar" with New York's decision. Neither knew of any other states with similarly explicit guidelines, although both said they had not made a complete survey.

*GCN* regrets any confusion that may have resulted from its erroneous characterization of New York's announcements as a "landmark decision." The error reflects, in part, the level of confusion among state and federal Medicaid administrators and officials themselves. *GCN* continues to seek to provide coverage of AIDS — as well as other lesbian/gay issues — that is free of such reporting and editorial oversights. □

## Painting

Continued from page 8

middle of the night. Now, where the hell they're going to go in the middle of the night in this tiny row boat is beyond me, as is Jarman's reason for splicing this together with a happy heterosexual wedding that takes place in an abandoned building (and has two drag-queen bridesmaids).

Oh, for the narration, the narration!

But still, as Jarman says: "*The Last of England* is not as manipulative as a commercial feature; you know — jump here, be frightened there, laugh. Traditional features manipulate the audience.... My audiences have much greater freedom to interpret what they are seeing and, because of the pace, to think about it...." I agree with him and his strategy, even if I felt clueless or bored during some parts of the film. So, the whole thing's not totally comprehensible. A bad hour-and-a-half with Derek Jarman is better than a good hour-and-a-half with Spielberg any day! □

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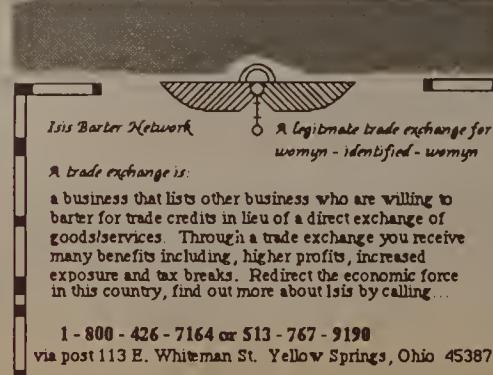
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Your body's ability to fight all disease, including AIDS and its related illnesses (such as Kaposi's Sarcoma and pneumocystis carinii pneumonia), may be benefitted by general good health — good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol, poppers and other drugs.

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If you must share or re-use your works, clean them as follows: dip needle and works into 100 percent bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into water, draw up and release three times (in an emergency, rubbing alcohol, vodka or wine can also be used). As an alternative, boil works in water for at least fifteen minutes. Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.

## Resource phone numbers

National AIDS Hotline 1 (800) 342-7514  
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) Boston (617) 536-7733  
Latino AIDS Hotline (Bilingual), Boston (617) 262-7248  
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston (617) 437-4200  
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York (212) 807-6655  
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Washington, D.C. (202) 544-1076  
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2F's seek F (L or Bi) 25-plus for 3 BR apt. Close to Red Line, shops. \$334-plus. Must be friendly and neat. Available April 1st. Call Anne or Stephanie 625-4474 leave message. (36)

#### STONEHAM APT

L 40-plus with part time 10 year old son seeks L roommate to share drug alcohol smoke free apt. Am into recovery, safe neighborhood, washer-dryer. \$350-plus. Utilities available. 4/1, 438-8606. (36)

#### 4 WOMEN SK. 5TH

For cheerful mostly gay mid 20's semi-veg household. Eat-in kitchen, 1/2 bath frpl. hdwd flr. quiet street nr. Porter T. Call 625-3314. (36)

#### WORCESTER-MARLBORO AREA

Lesbian couple with newborn in sunny cape in quaint N.E. town seek L to share house. Near rte. 495; 50 min. from Boston. \$400/mo. all inclusive. Call Jo (508) 869-3130. (36)

## APARTMENTS

### LYNN — SWAMPSOFT

Beautiful 1 BR apt. Steps to beach. Walk to train, 2 stops from North Station. Nice yard. Parking. \$675 includes all utilities. (508) 744-0959. (37)

#### MEDFORD/SOMERVILLE

Beautiful sunny 7-room apt., near T and Tufts Univ. Modern kitchen and bath, w/d hkp, porches, yard, quiet neighborhood. \$975 plus utilities. Available 4/1/89. Call 396-5591, leave message. (36)

#### PVT. HOME SO. NH 2ND FLOOR 4 RMS.

South of Manchester, professional G M/F preferred. Lovely home and private yard. Seeking individual who appreciates country setting, clean home and quiet surroundings. \$650/mo. references. (603) 432-7189. After 6pm or anytime weekends. (37)

#### ASHMONT — DORCHESTER

Newly renovated spacious two bedroom apartment, hardwood floors, sunny rooms. Lots of closets. \$800 per month, inc. electric. Minutes from T. Come have a look. 894-7224. (36)

## FOR SALE

#### FOR SALE

Noted Black woman writer's home in Staten Island, NY. Contact HEMA and IRIS at 718/727-6900. (40)

## HOUSING WANTED

I.F. 42, looking for place to live. Prefer Camb/Som area and no drugs/drink. Smoke but where/when negotiable. Can afford around \$300. Please call 522-2032. (36)

#### REWARD! APT. WANTED

2LF/2 cats need 1 bdrm. apt. by 4/1. Max \$600/month incl. utilities. Somerville/Cambridge/Medford/Newton areas. Safe neighborhood. Call collect evenings. (607) 724-8336. Dee/Enka/message. (36)

## VACATIONS

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#### ALL MALE!

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## GCN SPECIALS

#### DICTIONARIES NEEDED!

The average educational level of prisoners is junior high school (meaning that many haven't even finished elementary school). Both because they have "time" now and because they need to understand the pretentious "legalese" and other language of the system, they need dictionaries.

Please consider keeping an eye out for "deals" and picking up a few for us to send out. THANKS!

GCN News and Features writers need cassette recorders. If you have a working one that you're not using, or want to donate one, it would be well used. Thank you.

## PUBLICATIONS

### GAYELLOW PAGES

INFORMING THE GAY COMMUNITY SINCE 1973 Accommodations, AA groups, bars, baths, bookstores, businesses, counselors, dentists, doctors, hotels, lawyers, mail order, media, publications, organizations, religious groups, services, social groups, switchboards, therapists, travel agents, etc., etc., etc. (area codes too!)

#### USA & CANADA \$10

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY \$4.50; includes Manhattan bar notes & women's section

SOUTHERN EDITION \$4.50; Alabama, Arkansas N & S, Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

NORTHEAST EDITION \$4.50; Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, W. Virginia

Renaissance House, Box 292GCN Village Station, NY, NY 10014 212-674-0120. All books discreetly by first class mail: your name kept strictly confidential. To list a business or organization, or for further information, send stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope. Please contact us for prices outside the USA. In Canada, order from Glad Day Books, 598 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1Z3 416-961-4161 (check for prices)

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The Second Stone. Gay Christians — Engaging features and columns, news from Gay Christian groups. Newsbriefs/Calendar/Book Review. Retreats, travel and new friends. \$12.50 for 6 issues. (1 yr.) to P.O. Box 8340, New Orleans LA 70182.

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#### OFF OUR BACKS

Lively, down-to-earth feminism in the nation's oldest women's newsmagazine. Analysis, reviews, conference coverage, and news — on health, feminist theory, reproductive rights, civil rights, and political work among working, disabled, incarcerated, old, and poor women, women of color, lesbians, and women from every continent. \$15/11 issues. Trial sub: \$4/3 issues. oob, Dept. GCN, 2423 18th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. (ex)

#### WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample issue on request. THE WOMEN'S REVIEW, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 02181. (ex)

#### BLACK/OUT

Special 10th Anniv. edition of Black/Out now available. This bi/annual magazine from the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays contains essays, reviews, poetry, news and announcements concerning the Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy \$6 plus \$1 postage. 1 year subscription (2 issues) \$10 to Black/Out c/o NCBLG, 19641 West Seven Mile, Detroit, MI 48219. (ex)

#### OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN

A journal of woman-to-woman s/m. Fantasy, analysis, erotic art and much more. Sub: \$13/4 issues. Single issues \$4. Must state you are over 18. SASE for info. PO Box 23, Somerville MA 02143. (ex)

**WOMAN OF POWER:** "A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; singles issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

**ON OUR BACKS**, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr sub or \$5 current issue to: On Our Backs, PO Box 421916, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

## PUBLICATIONS

#### LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50; sub \$6; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, #263G, SF, CA 94114. (16--)

## ORGANIZATIONS

#### OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

#### BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 584 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

#### BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 523-7363 for info. (15.32)

#### MAN/BOY LOVE

Intergenerational Love Support Group. Worldwide news, art, opinions. Application, information free. Bulletin \$1.00 NAMBLA, P.O. Box 1923, St. Louis, Missouri, 63118. (7)

## MOVERS

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236-1848



26 yr old Cuban-German-Irish lesbian (saw GCN prisoner project ad in Sinister Wisdom) would like a penpal (!) 'There is over 2000 women here, yet it can still be very lonely.' Please write. Toni ROBINSON, W29925 BA1059U, Frontera CA 91720.

I need some 'advice' and someone to talk to. I was involved with this woman named Julie for all 3 yrs I've been here and now she's got her freedom and I miss her terribly and have no one to talk to about it. [LONG poem to Julie and to Karen's mother included; saving it for Poetry Center, unless Julie sees this and asks for a copy.] Would there be a penpal out there I could be friends with? Karen NORTON, 18605, 1479 Collins Ave, Marysville OH 43040.

I will be incarcerated for several years and would like to find a long-term gay female to correspond with. I'm 23, Gay American Indian and Aztec. Jodee MARTINSON, 643734, Box 17, Gig Harbor WA 98335.

I'm 25. I love to write, and read, and I like music. I'm looking for a friend. Please write. Saadia EVERETT, 7014, Box 180, Muncy PA 17756.



Small built, sexy butt, would like to meet open minded out going free spirited and loving friends. David NUETZEL, 07780 MB 154, 1150 SW Allapattah Rd, Indiantown FL 34956.

I'm 38, have chestlength dreadlocks, Pisces, have tried everything at least once. Place no restrictions on interaction. Would like a penpal. Bernard WOOD, D-32363 A5-140-L, Box 409000, lone CA 95640.

I am HIV positive since 1985, and have no one to write or visit me. I'm 38 and can receive mail from anyone. No need to be on my list. I hope to hear from someone. James SCHOEN-DORF, Box 100, Somers CT 06071.

#### Calling SEATTLE!!

Gay male, 41, would like to hear from someone in the Seattle area, on the streets, that I might get to know. I'm due for parole soon and need help

# calendar

31 Friday □ **Lily Tomlin** explains the difference between soup and art in "The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe" — a benefit for the Fenway Community Health Center, GLAD, and the NAMES Project. Shubert Theatre, 8pm. Info: 536-0972.

**Please note:** Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos with listings are encouraged. Please specify if your event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted.

## 25 Saturday

**Cambridge** □ **Hot, Horny, and Healthy** playshop and training presented by the Nat'l. Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the Nat'l. Assoc. of Black and White Men Together (BWMT). Harvard Yard's Phillips Brooks House, 11am-3pm. Free. All welcome. (See also 3/26.) 547-1497.

**Waltham** □ **Take Back the Night March.** Brandeis U., Usdan Circle. 6pm. Followed by singer/songwriter Kathy Phipps at Chumley's coffeehouse at 9pm. Free. 736-3740.

**Cambridge** □ **PolyEsther**, a Gay vaudeville/burlesque show based on the book of Esther. Killian Hall, Hayden Library, MIT. 8pm. \$5 more if/less if. To benefit the Lesbian Gay Council of the Rainbow Coalition. Wheelchair accessible. 424-6989.

**Boston** □ **Women in Theatre Festival.** "Her Dream Kitchen" by Deborah Fortsen at 2pm. \$5. "The Hare in the Moon" at 4pm. \$8. "Lilly and May," a play about street women in Australia at 8pm. \$12.50/10.50. **The Split Britches Company** presents "Little Women: The Tragedy" at 9:30pm. \$12.50/10.50. All events at Walsh Theater, Suffolk U., 55 Temple Street. 424-1411.

## 26 Sunday

**Cambridge** □ **Hot, Horny and Healthy** playshop and training sponsored by BWMT. Phillips Brooks House in Harvard Yard. 1-4pm. Free, all welcome. (See 3/25)

**Cambridge** □ **Black poet and writer Hattie Gosset** reads from her book "Presenting Sister No Blues." New Words, 186 Hampshire Street. 3-5pm. Free. 876-5310.

**Cambridge** □ **Foreign Women's brunch.** Noon. Contact the Foreign Women's club at the Women's Center. 354-8807.

**Boston** □ **Schlock Against Sexism party.** Sponsored by Rock Against Sexism. 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St. Must be 21 or over. 6-10pm. \$2

**Boston** □ **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove**, a play by the late Jane Chambers, part of the Women in Theatre Festival. C. Walsh Theater, Suffolk U., 55 Temple St. 2pm. \$10.50, 12.50. 424-1411.

## 27 Monday

**Boston** □ **A Demo to Tear Down The Wall of Poverty.** The Coalition for Basic Human Needs meets in front of the State House. 11:30am. Childcare provided. 497-0126.

**Waltham** □ **Brandeis U. Women's History Events.** Art work by Karen Klien at Dreitzer Gallery. (Thr 3/30.) Noon-5pm. At Noon, poetry reading by Mary Campbell, Gray Jacobik, Nora Mitchell and Judith Rosenberg. Dreitzer Gallery, Springfield. At 4:30, "Women with AIDS" presented by the AIDS Action Committee. Int'l. Lounge, Usdan. At 7pm "Women and Volunteerism" with Rivka Duman. Int'l. Lounge. 736-3740.

**Cambridge** □ **Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights** bi-weekly planning meeting. 142 Memorial Drive, Rm. 306. 7pm. 776-6956.

**Boston** □ **Boston Bi-Sexual Women's Network** volunteer night. 7:30pm. 247-6683.

## 29 Wednesday

**Waltham** □ **Freedom Bee Quilter.** Rural Women's Grassroots Initiatives. Int'l. Lounge, Usdan, Brandeis U. 4pm. At 6:30pm, **Women's Hunger and Feeding Ourselves**, Becky Thompson talks at Ziv Commons, Ziv Quad. 736-3740.

**Boston** □ **Mass. AIDS Initiative General Meeting.** Curley Room, Boston City Hall. 6:30pm. 725-4225.

**Cambridge** □ **Healing through diet and natural skin care.** Scott Truel speaks at MCC, 720 Mass Ave. 7:30-9pm. 523-7664.

## 30 Thursday

**Boston** □ **GCN Production Night.** All welcome. Proof-reading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. GCN, 426-4469.

**Jamaica Plain** □ **J.P. Lesbian and Gay Neighbors.** Stony Brook area folks invited to an open house. Hosted by Don and Rebecca. 524-6392.

## 31 Friday

**Boston** □ **GCN Mailing.** Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. GCN, 426-4469.

**Waltham** □ **Women and Peace.** Gwen Kirk of the Greenham Women's Peace Camp speaks, Alumni Lounge, Usdan, Brandeis U. 3pm. At 8:30pm, **Women and Judaism** with T. Deborah Setel, Int'l. Lounge, Usdan. 736-3740.

**Boston** □ **Lily Tomlin** in "The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe," by Jane Wagner. Special Benefit performance for the Fenway Community Health Center Building Fund, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders and the NAMES Project of New England. Shubert Theater, 8pm. \$20/\$50 and special reception with Lily for \$100 sponsors. 536-0972.

**Boston** □ **Lesbian Lawyers, Legal Workers and Friends** meet at the Piano Bar at the Lenox Hotel in Copley Sq. 5:30-7:30pm. New members welcome. 483-3685.

**Cambridge** □ **Black Rose Lectures.** Impressions of Mondragon: Workers Cooperatives in Spain. Harriet Miller speaks at MIT, 105 Mass. Ave., Bldg. 9, Rm. 150. 8pm. 734-3196.

**Medford** □ **Lesbian and Gay Activism for the 1990's** sponsored by Tufts University Lesbian, Gay and Bi-Sexual Community (through 4/2). Tonight, **November Moon**, a film about the love between two women during the Nazi occupation of France. Registration at Meyer Campus Center. 6-7pm. \$10 for the weekend. 629-9768.

## Saturday | April

**Boston** □ **Am Tivka Dance.** Swing to the Music of Cheek to Cheek. YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 9pm \$10/advance \$12/door. 782-8894.

**Cambridge** □ **Amethyst Women's Square Dance** with Caller Cindy Green. 7 Temple Street. Wheelchair accessible. 8:30-11:30pm \$5 more/less. Alcohol/drug free event.

**Boston** □ **Boston Gay Men's Chorus with Special Guest Nancy Armstrong.** Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory. Sign language interpreted. 8pm. \$18, 14, 9. 482-2527.

**Medford** □ **Lesbian and Gay Activism in the 1990's.** Speakers: Angela Bowen, David Scordras, Ann Sanders, Kevin Cathcart. Tufts U., Cabot Auditorium. 1-4pm. \$5 for the day. Dancing in evening. 629-9768.

**Cambridge** □ **The Womens School.** Perestroika and Women. 11am-12:30pm. Also, "Stress Sense for Women," 11am-2pm. "Is PMS Part of Your Life?" 11am-2pm. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

## 2 Sunday

**Somerville** □ **Gays and Lesbians of Somerville and Surroundings Potluck Dinner.** 7pm. Mike, 628-2643.

### Weekly events

#### Saturday

**Boston** □ **The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** is planning a new training session for individuals to work on their 24-hour hotline. 617/492-RAPE.

**Cambridge** □ **SANCHIN Women's School of Karate and Self Defense** for women of all ages, abilities. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 3-5pm. T-Th. 6-8pm. 617/547-3889.

**Boston** □ **Living With AIDS Theatre Project** workshop. No performance experience necessary. Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. 10:30am.

**Boston** □ **Women's Self-Defense Collective** offers **Women's Self-Defense Classes**. All ages and abilities. Meets Wed. eves., Sat. afternoons in South End. 617/574-9433.

**Boston** □ **Gay Boston**, with Jim Voltz. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

#### Sunday

**Boston** □ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY).** Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. Sunday drop-in: 2-5pm. 617/354-6658.

**Boston** □ **Metro Healing healing group** for everyone. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. 617/426-9205.

**CALENDAR COMPILED BY NAOMI STEIN**



**Boston** □ **"Boston's Other Voice,"** radio for Gay/Lesbian community. 3/26, Marilyn Waring talks about her book **If Women Counted**. 4/2, Womens music and info on writing to Senators and Reps. in support of the gay rights bill. 11pm. WROR 98.5 FM.

#### Monday

**Boston** □ **Straight Talk About Disabilities.** March program on Employment. M/W nights at 7:30pm, Channel A-22.

**Cambridge** □ **Healing Circle** group healing. 5 Upland Rd., Porter Square. 7:30-9:30pm. \$5 suggested. 864-1989.

**Boston** □ **Alcoholics Together**, les/gay group holds a free discussion meeting Mon.-Fri. at Gay & Lesbian Health, 180 Cambridge St. 12-1:30pm. 617/227-8353.

**Cambridge** □ **Lesbian Rap.** Topics: 4/3, Paganism and witchcraft; 4/10, Friendship; 4/17, Night Out; 4/24, Roles in Lesbian relationships. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

**Providence, RI** □ **ACT-UP/Rhode Island** open meetings. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. Bill, 782-9063.

**Roxbury** □ **ACT UP/Boston** meets to confront the AIDS crisis. Room 345, Bldg. 3, Roxbury Community College. 7:00pm. Info: 49-ACT UP.

**Cambridge** □ **Bisexual Women's Rap.** 3/28, Safe sex; 4/4, Lesbianism; 4/11, Class Differences; 4/18, The artistic impulse; 4/25, Butch/Femme. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. 354-8807.

**Cambridge** □ **30-plus Lesbian Rap.** 3/28, Spirituality; 4/4, Coming out at work; 4/11, Intimacy with Friends; 4/18, Self-esteem; 4/25, Celibacy. 7-8:30pm. The Women's Center (see above).

#### Wednesday

**Boston** □ **Women for Sobriety.** Women's Center (see above) 8-9:30pm.

**Boston** □ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth.** Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6pm; women and men meet separately 6:45-7:30; general meeting at 7:30pm. 354-6658.

**Boston** □ **Bisexual Children of Alcoholics.** Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency room entrance). 7:30pm. 259-1559.

**Boston** □ **New group forming for lesbians who have been sexually harassed at work.** Wed. or Th. 492-7273.

**Cambridge** □ **"Say it, Sister!"** 3/29, Daughters of Bilitis Celebrates its 20th Anniversary. WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

**Cambridge** □ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. Women's Center (see above). 6:30-8pm.

**Cambridge** □ **MASS ACT OUT** meeting. M.I.T., Building 66, Rm. 126. 7:30pm. 661-7737.

#### Thursday

**Northampton** □ **Valley Gay Alliance** meets 1st, 3rd Th. every month, basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30pm. 413/527-5310

**Stoneham** □ **Incest Survivors' Group** for women. New England Memorial Hospital, 5 Woodland Rd. 5-6:30pm. Sara Epstein, 979-7025.

**Cambridge** □ **Wise Woman Tradition Herbal Medicine and Women's Wisdom Classes.** Sliding scale. Whitewolf, 277-8232.

**Boston** □ **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

**Cambridge** □ **Incest Survivors Group.** Women's Center, (see above). 7:30-9:30.

#### Friday

**Worcester** □ **AIDS Project-Worcester support group** for HIV positive, PWAs, PWARCs, supporters. Open to all lesbians, gay men. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Dana 508/755-3773.

**Boston** □ **Healing group** for everyone. Santa Fe Hair Salon, S28 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

**Cambridge** □ **Incest Survivors Group** on Death and Grief. Short-term. Women's center (see above). 7pm.

**Cambridge** □ **Women's Coffeehouse.** 3/31, Early Women's Music and Culture with Deb Lempke; 4/7, Storytelling with Susan Warner; 4/14, Urban Folk Music with Lon Goldsmith; 4/21, Open Readings by Older Women; 4/28, Music and Song with Janet Schmeltz. Women's Center (see above). 8pm-midnight.

**Committed.** Directed by Sheila McLaughlin and Lynn Tillman. Written by Lynn Tillman with additional material by Sheila McLaughlin. With Sheila McLaughlin, Victoria Boothley, Lee Breuer and Lucy Sanger. At the Brattle Theater, Cambridge, Mass., March 28.

By Michael Bronski

**C**ommitted is a bold subversive attempt to get at the emotional and political truth of the Frances Farmer story. Conceived and directed by experimental filmmakers Sheila McLaughlin and Lynn Tillman — McLaughlin won critical and popular acclaim for her full-length lesbian film *She Must Be Seeing Things* — Committed doesn't paint Farmer as a feminist victim, or leftist martyr, but attempts to place her story in the realm of popular American culture.

Frances Farmer gained nationwide recognition in 1936 when she rose from promising starlet to a full-fledged star in a stunning performance as both a mother-daughter in William Wyler's *Come And Get It*. But the actress's outspoken support for migrant field workers and trade unionism, and her refusal to play by the studio rules, soon resulted in her bad press.

After a stint of working with the progressive Group Theater in New York in the late 1930s she returned to Hollywood only to find trouble. Arrested for drunken driving and being abusive to a policeman (she called him a cocksucker; not exactly movie star publicity) she was jailed and institutionalized a number of times. In 1948, she was given one of the first transorbital lobotomies performed in the U.S. She was released, at the age of 36, in 1950 after hospital authorities decided that she had finally responded to therapy. For seven years she lived in obscurity, finally made some more films and in 1972, just before her death, wrote a harrowing autobiography *Will There Really Be a Morning*.

The Frances Farmer story was told in 1982 in *Frances* (with Jessica Lange) and again in the 1983 TV bio *Will There Really Be a Morning* (with Susan Blakely). But the McLaughlin-Tillman film (also filmed at the same time; it was first released in 1984 but is just having major theatrical releases in Boston and New York now) is not content to



Sheila McLaughlin as Frances Farmer in *Committed*

## Trapped inside the American dream machine

*Sheila McLaughlin's jarring look at the Frances Farmer story*

turn the hard, brutal facts of Farmer's life into run-of-the-mill melodrama. They have chosen to turn them into hyper-melodrama: a jarring clash of film noir and expressionistic filmmaking which not only locates Farmer in the middle of American pop-sensibility but dislocates the audience's expectations, giving us a truly nightmare vision of what it is like to be trapped inside the American dream machine.

*Committed* takes place inside the state

asylum where Frances Farmer (played here by filmmaker Sheila McLaughlin) is being detained as well as in the actress's mind itself. Much of the story is composed of the flashbacks Farmer recounts to a friendly nurse (Lucy Sanger) and we get to see her working with the Group Theater as well as her relationship with the abusive Clifford Odets, a leftist playwright (Lee Breuer), and her antagonistic, tormented relationship with her right-wing, possessive mother. Hav-

ing ditched a linear narration McLaughlin and Tillman filmed the script in harsh black and whites, giving the story the feel of a cheap '50s Hollywood exploitation film. The unsentimental tone and the tough-gal *mise-en-scene* remind you of such hard-boiled, and slightly crackpot, classics as Sam Fuller's 1963 *Shock Corridor* or Robert Aldrich's 1955 *Kiss Me Deadly*. Unlike the films *Frances* or *Will There Really Be A Morning*, *Committed* goes out of its way *not* to be a sympathetic soaper about a misunderstood star who fell from the Hollywood heavens.

By putting Farmer, and her story, in what looks like a hard-edged piece of noir-realism the filmmakers have finally gotten to some harsh truths the other films avoided. Not so much the everyday reality of life in such a snake pit — *Frances* is actually more explicit about that — but the ways in which we are allowed to view cultural figures, and how these figures themselves are trapped by the media in which they perform. (*Committed* makes it clear that Frances Farmer was trapped as much by the hypocritical Group Theater people as by the Hollywood Studios; "art," they seem to be saying, is always suspect, always a possible trap for the political.)

If there are any shortcomings with *Committed* they lie in the overwritten dialogue (which might be intended, but does not work as parody) and the fact that the film is so gripping we want it to go further, explore more of Farmer's life. It is a shame because her recovery back to a somewhat normal life is as fraught with political and emotional implications as her imprisonment and psychiatric confinement. And the fact that she eventually lived in what was most probably a lesbian relationship would have been perfect material for McLaughlin. But as it stands now — running for a little less than 90 minutes — *Committed* is a powerful and provocative film. The Brattle is showing *Committed* on a double bill with the wonderful *Come and Get It* as part of their Women On Film series, so there is double reason to see it. Viewing both films back to back should be like holding mirrors up to both art and life and watching the reflections refract and blur as we look for the real Frances Farmer. □

**MARCH**  
**FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY**  
**AND WOMEN'S LIVES**

**APRIL 9, 1989**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

- KEEP ABORTION & BIRTH CONTROL SAFE, LEGAL AND FUNDED
- DEMAND WOMEN'S EQUALITY, PASS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

April 10: Join us to lobby on Capitol Hill for the ERA and against anti-abortion legislation.

Buses leave Boston Common Saturday, 9pm. \$40 r.t. \$50 after March 20, \$55 Lobby Day, (subsidies available). Call the March Hot Line for information and alternative transportation: 617/782-4059 TDD 617/787-4393. Organizational Meetings are held every Thursday at the NOW Office.

Boston NOW  
971 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, MA 02215  
(617) 782-4059/1056

- Tickets also available at New Words, Arborway Video and Sound, and Out of Town Tickets.
- To charge by phone, call (617) 497-1118.

**T U F T S   L E S B I A N ,   G A Y ,   A N D   B I S E X U A L   C O M M U N I T Y**

invites you to an afternoon symposium on  
**GAY AND LESBIAN  
POLITICS FOR THE 1990s**

Speakers include:  
Angela Bowen, *National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays*  
Kevin Cathcart, *Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders*  
Robert Colon, *AIDS Action Committee, Minority Community Relations*  
Ann Sanders, *Mayor's Liaison to the Lesbian and Gay Community*  
David Sondras, *Boston City Councilor*  
AMALGM, *Alliance of Massachusetts Asian Lesbians and Gay Men*  
MASS ACT OUT  
ACT UP/BOSTON  
Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

**COME DISCUSS FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

**Saturday, April 1, 1-4 PM, Tufts Cabot Auditorium**  
Donation Requested  
For more info: 617/381-3580, or John or Jere, 617/625-4346